

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, August 22, 1991

Published Since 1877

Leaving pastorate means identity change for Draper

By Linda Lawson

EULESS, Texas (BP) — Ending his 35-year career as a pastor to become president of the Baptist Sunday School Board represents not only a change in vocation for James T. Draper Jr. but also a change in identity.

"I've always said being a pastor is not what I do but what I am," Draper said Aug. 5, the morning after his last Sunday as pastor of First Church of Euless, Texas. "How do you stop being what you are? It's a major adjustment."

Draper was elected July 18 to become the eighth president in the 100-year history of the denomination's Nashville-based church programs and publishing board. With a 1990-91 budget of \$190.4 million, the board employs more than 1,800 people in its Nashville headquarters and in 62 Baptist Book Stores and two national conference centers. The board directs 17 SBC programs including Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Church Music, Church Administration, family and student ministry, and Bible and book publishing.

To churches with questions about whether the board's literature will

meet their needs, Draper asks patience. He also urges understanding about the purpose of Sunday School literature. "Literature was never intended to be something you (Sunday School teacher) just parrot back to the class. It ought to be something to stimulate your own research and your own teaching of the Word of God," said Draper.

"I've always said being a pastor is not what I do but what I am."

From his 35 years as a pastor of seven churches and associate pastor of one, Draper brings the conviction that Sunday School is the best way to build and sustain growth. As pastor, he regularly told new Christians and new church members that the first thing they needed to do was get in Sunday School.

He envisions the board using its resources and expertise to help churches not only in the United States but also around the world to strengthen their ministries by building strong Sunday Schools. He hopes to

strengthen relationships with the Foreign Mission Board and the Baptist World Alliance for such efforts.

"Think of the opportunities the Sunday School Board has," he said.

"I think we ought to be an international Sunday School Board. We have so much to offer. We ought to be lying awake at night dreaming of things to do."

In Draper's last Sunday morning sermon as pastor, he reviewed the growth of the past and challenged church members to greater days ahead.

"Don't look back. Move forward," he urged.

He maintained control of his emotions until he said, "You know, I've never been anything but a preacher . . ."

His last official act as pastor was to preside at the election of a committee to seek his successor. The last action of the congregation was a prayer of commissioning of their pastor in service to the denomination.

Amid tears and hugs, the Drapers bade farewell as the choir sang "God's never failed me yet."

Lawson writes for BSSB.

Can ministers be fun? "Yes — if they choose"

By Chip Alford

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Can ministers be fun to live with?

According to counselor Glenn Booth, the answer is "yes," if they choose to be.

"It's the misdirection of priorities that often place us in the predicament of not being fun to live with," Booth, coordinator of the Ministers Counseling Service of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, told pastors and other church leaders attending Bible-Predaching-Administration Week at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. The Aug. 3-10 conference was sponsored by the Church Administration Department of the Sunday School Board.

Booth, who led a series of marriage enrichment seminars for ministers and their wives, said too many pastors are putting church and ministry before their families and even before God.

"It is very easy for a minister to think that because he is putting church and ministry first that he is putting God first," he said. "But that is not necessarily true. The two are not synonymous."

Booth said ministers can "busy"

themselves with church work and fail to spend quality time alone with God. This is one of the leading contributors to burnout among ministers, he said.

To live life effectively and be fun to live with, Booth said pastors must get their priorities straight. He suggested the following as a biblical model for life's priorities: God first, self second, family third (with mate before children), and ministry and church fourth.

"This type of evaluation is needed to help you become the minister God wants you to be," he said. "I cannot rightly relate to my family if I am not rightly related to myself, and I can not relate to myself unless I am in right relationship with the Father."

One of the keys in maintaining a healthy family life is for ministers to schedule time alone with their families and then honor it.

"And sometimes you have to learn to say no when you are already overscheduled. Besides, about 90% of the time when people make demands on you they do it at their convenience, not yours."

Alford writes for BSSB.

Deepening your roots

By Louis Lamar

How Deep Are Your Roots? . . . No, this is not the title of a sequel to Alex Haley's book, *Roots*, nor am I asking how far back have you traced your family lineage/tree. At the beginning of summer as the weather warms, trees begin to bud, flowers are planted, and fertilizer is spread to feed and deepen the root-system of the plants.

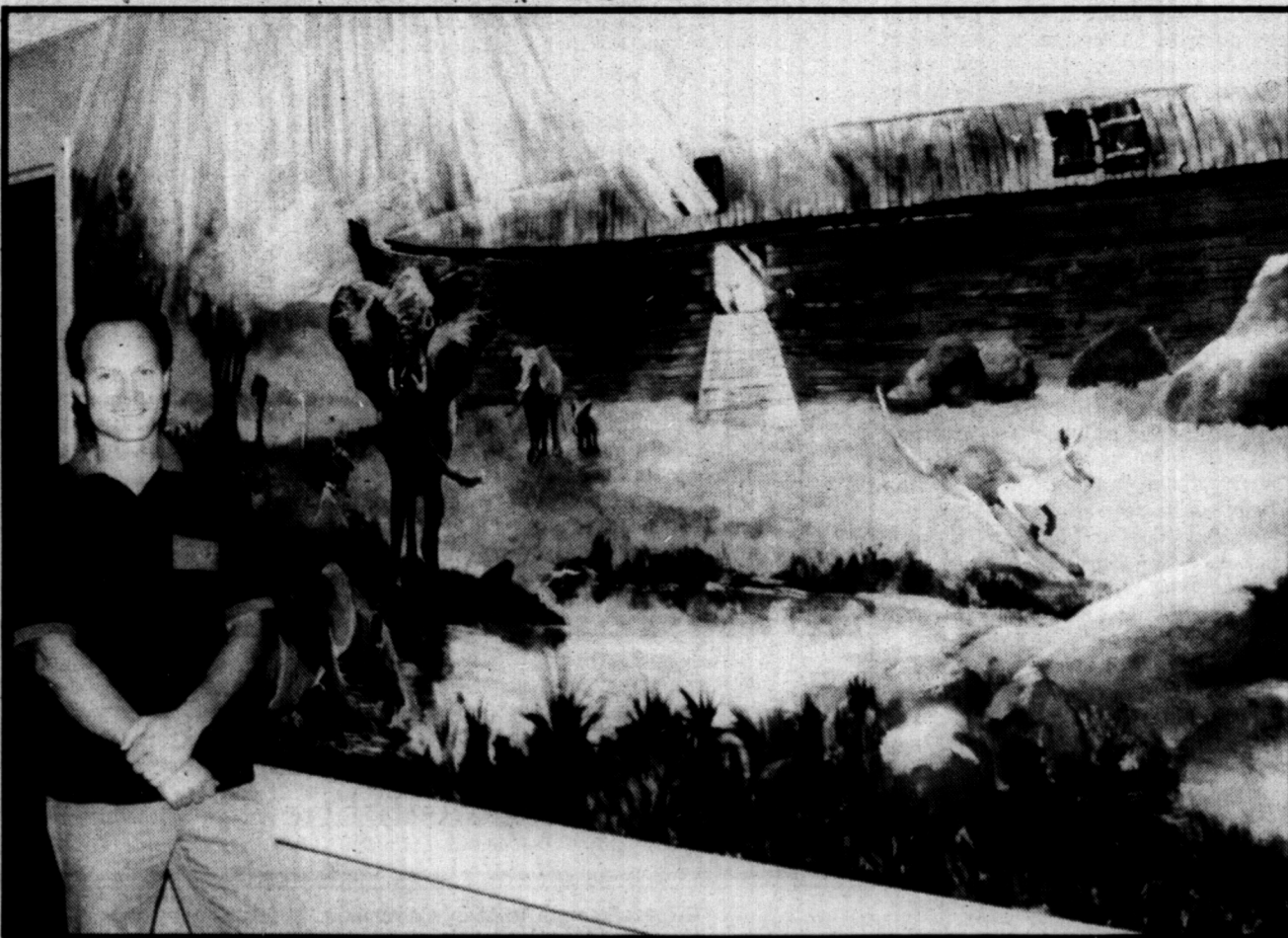
As seedlings, most trees begin their lives at about the same size, but years later there is often a remarkable difference in size. The redwood tree is reportedly the largest tree in the world. I once saw one that had been tunneled through to permit a car to travel through it. These mammoth trees are impressive indeed, but they share a very common characteristic with their smaller brothers and sisters; they all have similar root systems.

There are only two principal forms of root systems; a taproot system and a horizontal root system. The basic difference between the two root systems is the taproot system has a deep root system, and a horizontal root system has a shallow root system. Unless you are a horticulturalist, you can't tell much about the root system by merely looking at the tree. The foliage may be thick and lush but the root system may be shallow.

Christians are very much like trees in that you have both Christians who are deeply rooted and grounded in the Word of God, and you have those casual shallow rooted Christians. It's when the storms of life begin raging, when life begins to beat us down, that those shallow rooted Christians are uprooted first. They are the first ones to return to the world because the Word of God does not have a "deep meaning" for them. The deeply rooted Christian, on the other hand, may bend and sway but they remain steadfast. They have become dependent upon God and they will turn to prayer and the study of God's Word. Just as long as slow watering produces deeply rooted trees, the regular study of God's Word and prayer produces a deeply rooted Christian.

This is what Jesus meant in Mark 4:6 when the plant withered and died. The plant had "no root"; therefore it could not stand the scorching rays of the sun. Paul's prayer for the young energetic believers in Ephesus was that they would be "rooted and grounded . . ." (3:17). Paul also urged the Christians of Colossae to be "firmly rooted . . . built up and established in their faith" (2:7). Without strong roots, Christians become easy prey for Satan. Deepening your roots is a slow process, but it's worth it.

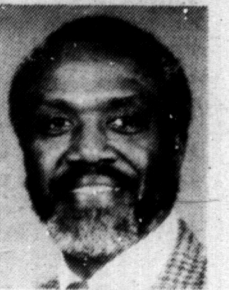
Lamar is pastor, Mount Sinai Church, Tupelo.



Noah's ark scene enhances pediatric unit

Noah's ark appears to rest in the newly renovated pediatric unit at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson. A wall mural painted by Albert Smathers of Raymond depicts in elaborate detail and color the freshness and wonder of the world after the waters of the Great Flood subsided. Other

hallways are enhanced with the fabric art of Judy Ford. Each patient room, as well as the playroom, is designed with the needs and likes of children in mind. The pediatric unit's remodeling is part of the overall renovation project of the hospital.



Lamar

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

The sad countenance

Casual observation convinces one that some people are determined not to enjoy their religion. They believe combat is the order of the day and that often against fellow believers. They were born under the sign of the juniper tree and if misery loves company they would hang out in a football stadium. Like the lady said, "Being miserable is what I do best, and now you are trying to take that away from me." "Les Miserables" is their favorite opera and if they ever sang it would be "Fight the Good Fight."

The characteristics can be seen every day in most of us. Hopefully we can overcome it or grow out of that stage. There is marked longing for the "special experience," the second blessing, or the fuller life. God has been holding out, you are not complete and Christianity is given on the installment plan . . . so much down and the rest after you've been to Mecca. Long distances will be navigated to obtain this special experience though the four blocks to the local church seems insurmountable.

Then there is the irritation of intolerance. This is often directed toward people who are not like we are. They look different, their diet is disgusting, the language is abominable, and to top it all, they drive on the wrong side of the road. Then we begin to bring religion into it . . . they eat with publicans and sinners.

Intolerance brings on legalism

which enables a person to speak with the air of finality. A second opinion is seldom sought and never heeded. This angry religionist is hard to live with, is bent toward bitterness, and writes with "carbolic acid on asbestos paper."

All of this in spite of Nehemiah's saying, "The joy of the Lord will be your strength" (Neh. 8:10). David prayed, "Restore unto me the joy of my salvation" (Ps. 51:12). The soul-winner will "reap in joy" (Ps. 126:5) and Luke tells us the seventy "returned with joy" (Luke 10:17). Jesus desired "that your joy might be full" (John 15:11). Paul reminds us that the kingdom of God is joy (Rom. 14:17) and the fruit of the Spirit is joy (Gal. 5:22).

The prodigal son's father missed a great opportunity to be the epitome of bitterness and intolerance. Instead, he declared, "We had to celebrate and be glad." Jonah gives us a perfect picture of the sad countenance. Trapped by bigotry and self-pity, he found no joy in Nineveh even when the city repented and was spared. His only joy was in a gourd vine. The trivial had become so important and he was a bit touchy when it came up for discussion. It was said of one man, "He was frequently overheard saying nothing." Jonah preached a great gospel in Nineveh but his mutterings under the gourd vine were lamentable.

The people who enjoyed their

religion tore up a man's roof and lowered their friend before Jesus for healing. The people who cannot enjoy their religion criticized their action. The proud and cynical said, "To what purpose is this waste?" and the woman who anointed Christ with the precious ointment remembered it as the high point of her life.

Why is it that we delight in turning the joyousness of Christ into systems, rules, and methods? Anguish is expended in trying to shape and mold your faith to the expectations of others. Is there no balm in Gilead? Must we forever be the frost on the tender vegetation of faith? A feather of mercy and compassion is worth more than a pound of judgment in life's arena.

A priest was quoted as saying, "I don't dare to be happy! Why, I would lose my soul." There was a Charlie Chaplin look-alike contest held while Chaplin was still alive. He entered the contest and came in third. Have we forgotten what the real thing looks like? So many pretenders, clouds without water, have led us astray from him who command we love one another.

Christ leads his children from triumph to triumph. The victory is ours, authentic and assured. In view of this, why is thy countenance sad? "Count your many blessings . . . every doubt will fly . . . and you will be singing as the days go by."

Guest opinion . . .

Christian citizenship

By Wm. B. Alexander

This is an election year. We are electing nearly everybody in local government and state government this year. What is the duty of Christian people regarding the election process?

First, everybody needs to be registered to vote. The deadline for registration to vote is Aug. 16, 1991. I would suggest every pastor urge his members to register by that time. Every church has some new people who have moved in from other places and some young people who have not registered. A person who will be 18 by Nov. 5, 1991, can register on or before Aug. 16, 1991, and vote in the primaries and the general election.

The first primary this year is Tuesday, Sept. 17. The second primary is Tuesday, Oct. 8. The general election is Nov. 5.

The next thing that Baptists and Christians should do is to get acquainted with the candidates. If you cannot talk to the candidate personally, then you can do this by talking to people that you know who know the candidates. In the governor's race, the lieutenant governor's race, and in the legislative races, a Christian voter probably will want to know how these candidates stand on lottery, video poker, dockside gambling, abortion,

and pornography. I am hopeful that the Baptist Record will publish the voting record of all members of the legislature on these issues so that Baptists and Christians can vote for the people for governor, for lieutenant governor, and for the House of Representatives and the state Senate who stood with us on these issues. There is nothing wrong at all in asking a candidate how he stands on each of these issues. It's our responsibility to know when we go to vote and it's our responsibility to cast an enlightened vote.

I think that every Christian should take a good daily newspaper and keep up with what is going on.

At all levels, if we could elect candidates who are Christians and who will stand with us on gambling issues, abortion, pornography, and drugs, we could keep our state from becoming a cesspool of crime and perhaps could even repeal the dockside gambling law which is on the books.

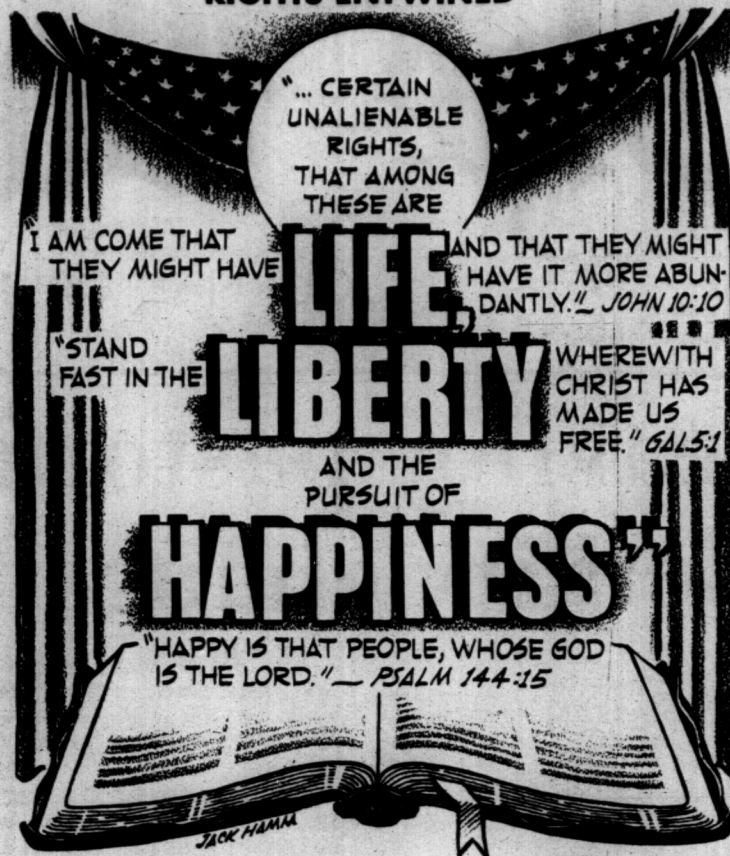
Jesus said, "Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's and unto God the things which are God's." We know that among our responsibilities to God are to obey his commands and to be faithful to him in every way, including church attendance, giving, and all the rest. We likewise have a

responsibility to our cities, our counties, and our state to elect good, decent people. I would hope that every Baptist pastor in Mississippi would urge the new people in the church and the young people to register to vote and to urge all of the people to acquaint themselves with the issues and find out how the candidates have stood in the past and how they stand now on the issues which are vital to us and to cast an informed vote.

Alexander, lawyer from Cleveland, is a retired senator.

Two out of every 10 Americans identify themselves as Baptists, according to a study on religion in America. More than 86 percent of Americans identify themselves with some Christian-based religion. The major church groups are Roman Catholic (26.2 percent), Baptist (19.4 percent), Methodist (8 percent) and Lutheran (5.2 percent). Overall, 60.3 percent of Americans identify with some Protestant religion. Jews make up 1.8 percent of the population, and more than 10 percent either refuse to answer, claim no religion, or declare themselves to be agnostic, according to the significant telephone survey by the City University of New York.

RIGHTS ENTWINED



Hall of Fame

Politicians have been blamed for everything from chickens that ceased to lay eggs during the eclipse to faking the moon landing. The Clarion-Ledger, a daily newspaper, has flailed into members of the legislature who did not vote for various gambling bills. Their names were printed with the plea that you not vote for these men. This Hall of Shame had held back progress and robbed the state of a golden opportunity, according to the exponents of the gambling craze.

Lottery vote opponents

■ Senators voting "no" were: Irb Benjamin, Rienzi; Barbara Blanton, Brandon; Buddy Bond, Carthage; Hob Bryan, Amory; Jack Gordon, Okolona; Pud Graham, New Albany; George Guerieri, Southaven; Bill Harpole, Starkville (deceased); Billy Harvey, Prentiss; Alan Hefflin, Forest; John Keeton, Grenada; Hainon Miller, Greenville; Cecil Mills, Clara; John J. Morgan, Oxford; Ronnie Musgrove, Batesville; Bill Renick, Ashland; Cy Rosenblatt, Jackson; Vincent Scoper, Laurel; Rob Smith, Richland; Wootsie Tate, Picayune; Billy Thames, Mize; Richard White, Terry; Roger Wicker, Tupelo.

We would like to commend these men and women and urge our constituency to call or write and let them know you appreciate this stand. It could well cost them an election, for many voters perceive the lottery and other gambling measures as being the salvation of our state. Legalizing liquor was to have been our utopia some years ago and now we hear echoes of the same argument. "Honor to whom honor is due" and we honor the lawmakers who publicly voted to keep legalized gambling out of our state. We need to let them know. They would love the encouragement. — G.H.

Citizen Christians:
Their Rights and Responsibilities

The Baptist Record

VOLUME 115

(ISSN-0005-5778)

NUMBER 28

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor Guy Henderson
Associate Editor Anne McWilliams
Advertising Manager Evelyn Keyes
Editorial Associate Florence Larrimore
Circulation Manager Renee Walley
Bookkeeper Betty Anne Bailey
Proofreader/Secretary Shannon Simpson
Editor Emeritus Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Susan Kinton, Walnut Grove; Raymond Martin Jr., Jackson, vice-chairman; Billy Thames, Wesson, chairman; Randy Turner, Natchez; Tommy Tutor, Clarksdale; Randy Von Kanel, Hattiesburg; ex-officio, Evelyn Keyes, secretary, Jackson. Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Send news, communications, and address changes to
The Editor, Baptist Record
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Keathley will be WMU associate director, Arkansas

Monica Keathley, WMU consultant, Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, has resigned to accept a position with Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union as associate executive director. In her new job, she will be working with Baptist Women, Baptist Young Women, and Campus Baptist Young Women.

Born in Poplar Bluff, Mo., Keathley grew up in Missouri, Oklahoma, and Kentucky. She is a graduate of Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo., and Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

From 1978 until 1984, she served as a missionary in Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso). In preparation for that, she earned a certificate in French from the Institut de Touraine, Tours, France. Also, she had previous-

ly served as a missionary journeyman in Accra, Ghana.

Keathley is the daughter of Ervin and Marsue Keathley of Little Rock, Ark. Her father is retired director of the Church Music Department of Arkansas Baptists. In the music field, she has held positions as minister of music and youth at First Church, Cuba, Mo., and minister of music and youth, First Church of Glendale, Hattiesburg.

She began work with the Mississippi WMU in 1986 and will be leaving that job Sept. 6 for a few days of vacation before she moves to Little Rock to begin her new work on Sept. 16.

Aubrey Boone to retire from Foundation

The president of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation Board of Trustees, Bill R. Baker, has announced that



Boone

Aubrey Boone, executive secretary of the Foundation, will retire from the office on Jan. 1, 1992. Boone will remain in the position after Jan. 1, if the position has not been filled.

Boone became executive secretary of the Foundation in August of 1987. He moved to Jackson from Winona, where he was president of the Bank of Winona.

The executive committee of the Foundation has been appointed as the search committee to seek the new executive secretary. The committee is comprised of Hayes Graves, Norris Stampley, and James Wheatley. Baker will serve as ex-officio member.

All inquiries and correspondence should be addressed to Hayes Graves, P. O. Box 66, Brandon, MS 38043.

Baker has requested that Mississippi Baptists pray for the committee.

Houston church elects Dan Vestal as pastor

HOUSTON (ABP) — Atlanta pastor Daniel Vestal, who in recent years has been the key figure in the moderate-conservative movement among Southern Baptists, will become pastor of Tallwood Church in Houston.

Vestal, 46, leaves Dunwoody Church in suburban Atlanta, where he has been pastor since October 1988. He told the 3,800-member Atlanta congregation of the potential move Aug. 12 because "I wanted to be as honest with you as soon as I could," he said. "I began to feel several months ago that my ministry was coming to a conclusion here," he added.

Vestal twice was unsuccessful in bids for the SBC presidency, losing in 1989 and 1990 to the fundamental-conservative candidates.

After his second defeat, he convened a national meeting of moderate-conservatives in August 1990 in Atlanta which led to formation of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship last May.

Lottery to go on Texas ballot

By Ken Camp

DALLAS (BP) — Texas lottery opponents suffered a major setback last week when Lone Star lawmakers meeting in special session yielded to intense lobbying pressure, voting to place legalization of the state-run numbers game on November ballot.

But anti-gambling advocates pledge an all-out, grassroots campaign to inform voters the lottery is "all smoke and mirrors," not the answer to the state's budget woes.

Weston Ware, citizenship associate, Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, said approval of the lottery proposal was the result of a concerted lobbying effort by the governor, lobbyists for the lottery industry, and lobbyists for horse and dog racing tracks "all of whom have taken advantage of the state's fiscal situation to see what they could foist off on the people of Texas."

"They had a lot to offer the legislators," added Sue Cox, director of Texans Who Care. "All we had to offer was good government."

"Now the question is whether we can let Texans know the truth about the lottery," Ware said. "Many have been convinced that the lottery would enable the state to avoid a massive tax increase. What will happen when Texans learn that was all a lot of smoke

and mirrors?"

Lottery proponents cleared their first major hurdle when HJR8 won the needed two-thirds majority approval in the state House of Representatives on Aug. 5 by a 101 to 46 vote.

On the eve of the House vote, Gov. Ann Richards sent a videotaped message to television stations throughout Texas, urging citizens to ask their representatives to approve the lottery legislation. In the video release, she said, "Either we have a huge tax bill or we approve a lottery. That's what it comes down to."

But soon after the House approved the lottery measure, the governor conceded "the lottery does not resolve all of the financial problems of the state of Texas... (and) undoubtedly there will be some form of a tax bill."

During House debate on the lottery measure, Rep. Billy Clemons, D-Pollock, made a pointed reference to highly paid, pro-lottery lobbyists seated in the House gallery and to the intense lobbying effort they had waged.

"Look at all the lobbyists," he said. "Do you think the taxpayers sent them up here? No! They represent private industries from out of state."

Camp is PR director, Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Mississippi Baptist Convention provides financial aid for ministerial students

The Mississippi Baptist Convention provides financial assistance to qualified ministerial students who attend one of Mississippi's four Baptist colleges. This assistance is in the form of monthly grants made available to full-time undergraduate ministerial students at Blue Mountain College, Mississippi College, Clarke Division of Mississippi College, and William Carey College. These grants are funded by the Cooperative Program and administered by the Board of Ministerial Education, an agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

In order to qualify for ministerial aid, students must have made a public

commitment to ministry. They must be enrolled as full-time, undergraduate students in a Mississippi Baptist college, and must maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average. The Board of Ministerial Education is authorized to provide assistance only to Southern Baptist students who are members of and pursuing ministry in a cooperating Southern Baptist church.

The Board of Ministerial Education has a representative on each Baptist college campus to coordinate the ministerial aid process. These campus representatives are Dean William Washburn at Blue Mountain College; Mrs. Evelyn Williams at Clarke Col-

lege; John McCall at Mississippi College; and Hardy Denham at William Carey College. Further information about ministerial aid may be obtained from any of these representatives.

Application packets are available from the Board of Ministerial Education's campus representatives and may be obtained at the time of registration. Application forms must be turned in by Sept. 6. Reference letters (forms provided) are due by September 20, along with a copy of the student's license and/or ordination certificate or a letter from their

(See **FINANCIAL AID** on page 5)

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

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MBC, SBC presidents will speak at state convention

By Tim Nicholas



Chapman

Powell

The presidents of both the Southern and Mississippi Baptist Conventions will be among the speakers for the annual Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The convention, official business meeting for Southern Baptists in the state, will take place Nov. 12-14 at First Baptist Church, Jackson, traditional site of the convention.

Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Tex., and SBC president, will speak to messengers at 4:10, the afternoon of Nov. 12.

Eddie Hamilton, pastor of Oak Forest Church, Jackson, and second term president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, will deliver his presidential address at 10:55 the morning of Nov. 12.

The Bible Treasure speaker will be Stuart Arnold, retired pastor of Citadel Square Church, Charleston, S.C., now an evangelist. Arnold will address the convention with his

25-minute devotionals during the four daytime sessions of the convention.

A series of testimonies entitled "How I Met Jesus" will be given at each of the six sessions.

The traditional convention sermon will be preached at 10:55 Wednesday morning by Gary Berry, pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg.

And Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will lead the Tues-

day evening emphasis on the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Two more outside speakers have been engaged for the convention. They are Paul Powell, president of the SBC Annuity Board, and John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention. Powell will speak Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 and Sullivan will be the closing convention speaker at 7:40 Wednesday evening.

Officers of the convention will be elected, including the president. And a 1992 budget of more than \$20 million will be considered.

Tom Sumrall of New Albany is chairman of the order of business committee. Other members are Larry Young, Pontotoc; Sandra Gunn, Biloxi; Bill Bacon, Clinton; Ann Colbert, Forest; and Roy Myers, Lucedale. The MBC president and MBCB executive director serve ex officio.

Parks says new missions "vision" should delay his retirement date

By Robert Dilday

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — In a rousing address Aug. 14, Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, challenged FMB trustees to accelerate worldwide evangelistic efforts during this decade.

The president also expressed his desire to lead those accelerated efforts by remaining at the helm of the FMB through 1995, three years after he turns 65. Any change in FMB leadership before that time would "jeopardize" those efforts, he warned.

Parks, speaking to trustees during their Aug. 12-14 meeting in Richmond, Va., said a recent "spiritual pilgrimage to the mountains" left him with a renewed sense of urgency for global evangelism in the 1990s.

By stressing his desire to remain president until most elements of the initiative are in place — probably in 1995 — Parks brought the issue of his retirement into the public arena.

The missions executive, who will turn 64 in October, will observe his 68th birthday in 1995. Some FMB trustees have said privately that Parks, who has been an occasional target of criticism during the denomination's controversy, should retire at 65.

Parks said his missions initiative comes at a "critical point" in Southern Baptist life, when the denomination must either "surge ahead or level off and lose momentum."

The board has exceeded its target of 10,000 volunteers. The 121 countries

to which mission workers are assigned is close to the goal of 125. And the current mission force of 3,899 is not far from the 5,000 the board hopes to achieve.

In order to do that, Parks called for: — Regional meetings among board staff, missionaries, and representatives of national Baptist bodies around the world to find improved ways to reach people with the gospel. One meeting already is planned in Latin America during 1992.

— A worldwide consultation in 1995, consisting of representatives from the regional meetings to coordinate plans for extensive worldwide evangelistic efforts in the final year of the decade. Similar consultations occurred in (See **PARKS** on page 10)

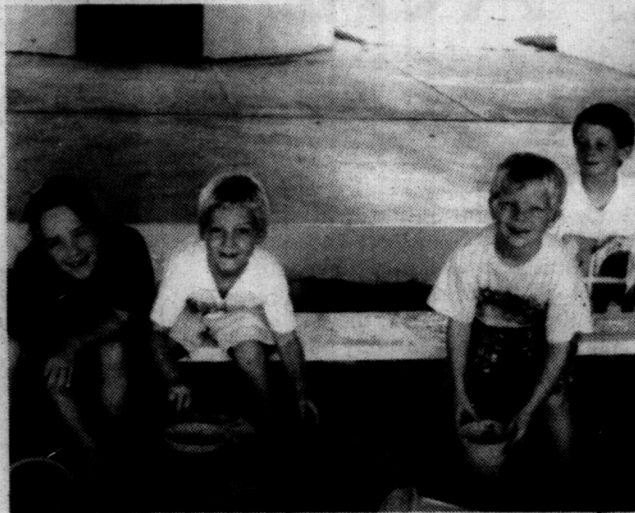
Church Music trains leaders: Gulfshore

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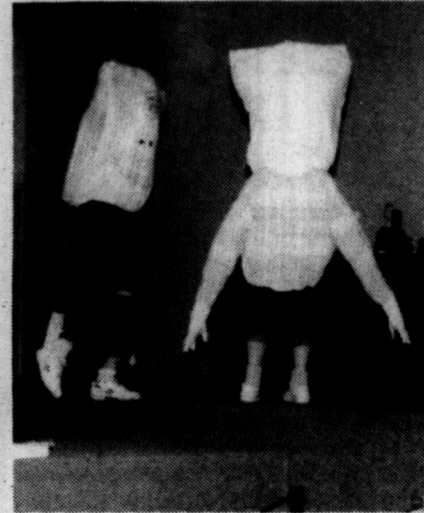
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Music missionaries in Argentina, Rick and Nedra Carter, served on the faculty of the Music Leadership Conference held at Gulfshore Assembly. Pictured with them are their children, John Richard, Marie, and Rebecca.



Children of the conferees are playing in the sandbox at day care.



Wanda and Perry Robinson, Laurel, participate in talent time.



Vicki Smith, a member of Central Church, McComb, and pictured in middle foreground, is teaching the class, Sugar Sticks. (Photos by Larrimore)



Jerry Talley, contract consultant, Church Music Department, MBCB, is pictured with Pam Meadows, a member of Parkway Church, Jackson, in the class of handbells.

Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

From the mail bag

"What would you like your church to pray for?"

Pick up your phone book and go down the list of names, calling and asking, "What would you like for our church to pray about?" Had you thought of doing that? Me either.

A church on Alameda Island in San Francisco Bay has, and the pastor said this telephone outreach ministry has been very effective in raising the community's awareness of the church. So reports Karen Willoughby in Looksee. "Every home on the island is to be called within an 18-month period (20,000 population)."

Four people make telephone calls for 90 minutes each Tuesday and ask people what they would like the church to pray about. Five teams of four callers use a criss-cross directory.

"I was someone special to Someone special"

Ken Cooper, Mississippian who is living in Turkey and who has written a couple of articles for the Baptist Record this year, made some comments in a recent newsletter, on Pastor Percy Ray's death. He said, "I remember one favorite challenge of Brother Percy to young preachers. He would say to us: 'Preach it, sing it, shout it — the Good News of Jesus Christ. Do it as long as you got breath.' He lived what he preached . . . He inspired in me something I never

learned in any seminary or classroom. He taught me from the Word of God that I was someone special to Someone special — God, and that nothing is too big, too small, too far fetched, to attempt if God is in it . . . I believe heaven is a happy place and I believe it had to live up considerably when Brother Percy Ray stepped in its door."

"He does love you!"

Keith Dendy, pastor of Montevista Church near Eupora in Webster County has sent to the Baptist Record the three following "musings" written by a new Christian in his church. He said, "I find it exciting to see a teenager using creative abilities for our Lord . . ."

GOD . . . makes things happen, so believe in him; confide in him when you have a problem; he's the only Friend you'll ever have who really understands your feelings and thoughts.

GOD . . . should be the center of your life. There may be times when you doubt that he really loves you, but remember that the temptations are only temporary. When he comes for you, you'll have your answer: Yes. He DOES love you!

GOD . . . There are times when I need to know that You still love me . . . and I pray, and read Your Holy Word, and I hear You tell me that YES, you still do!

— Patty Faulkner, Rt. 4, Eupora, MS 39774.

Criswell to preach in Clinton Aug. 26

W. A. Criswell, famed pastor of First Church, Dallas, will preach on Monday, Aug. 26, at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.



Criswell

Criswell is one of the premier preachers of our day, and an articulate spokesman for the Christian church today.

He has been pastor of First, Dallas, since 1944, has served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and is the author of numerous books. Criswell is a native of Eldorado, Oklahoma, and grew up in New Mexico.

Criswell will be the final speaker of Morrison Heights Church's Summer Splendor, at 7 p.m. Ken Alford is pastor.

FINANCIAL AID

From page 3

church verifying their public commitment to ministry. Students who received ministerial aid last year are required to submit only the application form. The Board of Ministerial Education cannot consider late or incomplete applications.

Board of Ministerial Education members will be on each campus the week of Sept. 16-20 conducting personal interviews with each applicant. All applications will be reviewed and acted on by this Board at its meetings on Sept. 23-24 and checks will be

First, Jackson, to hold Bible study for moms

First Church, Jackson, will start a weekly Bible study for mothers, every Tuesday beginning Sept. 3, from 9 to 11 a.m. This study "to strengthen personal growth and enhance motherhood" will be called "Rejoice" from Psalm 105:3 — "Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord."

The study is to take place at First Church, Room E-336 (across from the Family Counseling Ministry). It is for all moms of preschool and elementary children, and free preschool care will be provided. Registration deadline for the children is Aug. 22.

For more information, contact Sharon Polzin at 362-1417.

Sister churches assist Mt. Vernon after fire

Mt. Vernon Church, Route 3, Eupora, in Webster County, was burned in the early morning of May 22. The building, which had been recently bricked and renovated, and its contents were completely destroyed.

"Since that time," reports Mrs. Jewell Waits, clerk, "the church family has been struggling to raise enough funds to rebuild."

She adds, "A happy note has been the financial support given by a few of our Southern Baptist churches. When Christians from sister Baptist churches can assist each other in times of trouble, the spirit of love proclaimed in the Word of God is evident and Christ our Lord is exalted."

Sonny Redwine is the Mt. Vernon pastor.

issued the first of October covering both the September and October stipends. Ministerial aid is provided directly to the student on a monthly basis during the fall and spring semesters. Summer school grants are also available.

Members of the Board of Ministerial Education are Jack Winscott, president; J. M. Wood, vice-president; Ruthie Courtney, secretary; Johnny Walker; Joyce Beasley; Paul Lee; Gary Bagley; Dell Scoper; Ernest Turcotte; and Chester Grisham. Campus representatives serve as ex-officio members of the Board of Ministerial Education.

Dewey M. Metts Sr., retired minister, dies at age 93

Dewey M. Metts Sr., 93, of 4607 Lindbergh Drive, Jackson, a retired Baptist minister, died of cardiac arrest Aug. 13 at the Mississippi State Veterans Home.

Services were held at 2 p.m. Aug. 16 at Wright & Ferguson Funeral Home with burial in Lakewood Memorial Park, Jackson.

Metts, a Tate County native, was reared in Oxford. He had lived in Jackson a year and a half. He was a former resident of Ocean Springs and had taught school and served as pastor of churches in north Mississippi for a number of years. His last pastorate was Main Street Church in Goodman. He was a World War I Army veteran.

Survivors include daughter, Quida Jean Merrill of Jackson; sons, Dewey M. Metts Jr. of Ocean Springs and George F. Metts of Houston, Texas; one brother; one sister; and six grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the youth activities of First Baptist Church in Biloxi.

CLASSIFIED

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For \$25 see the GREAT PASSION PLAY and stay at Keller's Country Dorm Resort for groups of 12-160, in Eureka Springs, Ark. Air-conditioned lodging, swimming, \$9 tickets, cheeseburger cookout, dessert and breakfast — all included! Call 501/253-8418 today!

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CHURCH PEW CUSHIONS: Manufactured in our plant. For free estimate contact — Emmons Brothers, P. O. Box 186, Meridian, Miss. 39301. Since 1899. Phone (601) 693-4451.

FOR SALE: 47 PASSENGER MCI Motorcoach with air-condition, reclining seats, footrest, restroom and two 19" color televisions with VCR-VHS format. Excellent condition. For more information call John Cline, Cline Tours. Toll free 1-800-233-5307, Jackson, Miss.

CONVENTION PACKAGES: INDIANAPOLIS. Hotel accommodations, shuttle, breakfast, Speedway tour: Low as \$175/person: four night package. Discount airfares available. 1-800-624-2947

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, West Plains, Missouri, is seeking a full-time minister of students/evangelism. Send resumes/recommendations to: Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, 202 Walnut Street, West Plains, MO 65775.

CHARTER A BUS — reasonable cost, efficient/friendly service, comfortable traveling. Make plans for your group, young or old. We'll make your travel arrangements or provide only transportation. For more information call toll free in Mississippi 1-800-826-6849, or out of state 1-800-654-4379 or write Cedar Hill Charter Service, Box 2554, Laurel, MS 39442.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

What kind of hat do you wear?

By Lucille W. Bailey

1991 is election year in Mississippi. We will hear many times that certain people are going to "throw their hat into the ring." We will hear that certain candidates are "talking through their hat," meaning they are making promises they won't keep.

There are many kinds of hats. People can compare their Bible reading to the kinds of hats they wear.

Hat number 1 is a "rain hat." Have you ever noticed how people will run for the Bible when a storm comes up? Now when the bad weather is over, the Bible is returned to the shelf where it will remain until the next storm comes up.

Hat number 2 is a patriotic "Uncle Sam" hat. When people show their patriotic sides by answering the call to go to fight a war, off comes the Bible from the shelf. People turn to the book of Jeremiah and find where God said he would turn back the weapons of war, and claim that promise. But when the war is over, look for the Bible back on the shelf.

Hat number 3 is a winter hat. Some people decide during the cold winter months they will read the Bible. Some people will memorize a verse of Scripture like this one: "In all thy ways

acknowledge him and he will direct thy paths." Now God is not a seasonal God, because he will direct our paths through all four seasons. Once again the Bible is returned to the shelf.

Hat number 4 is a holiday hat. This hat will only be worn during one holiday. Take a look at those people who only attend church on Easter Sunday. Now you won't see them again until next season. These people don't even get the Bible off the shelf, but rather they use the one in the pew rack at church to read about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Hat number 5 is used for decoration and to fill with potpourri to enjoy the aroma of its contents. There are people who will spend quite a bit of money to buy a beautiful Bible and then place it on the coffee table. Not only is this Bible for show, but it is also a place to store important papers.

Which hat do you wear? The rainy hat? the patriotic hat? the winter hat? the holiday hat? or the decorative hat? If you wear any of these, you need to exchange them for a year round, all purpose hat that will have you reading God's Word 365 days of the year.

Mrs. Bailey lives at State Line.



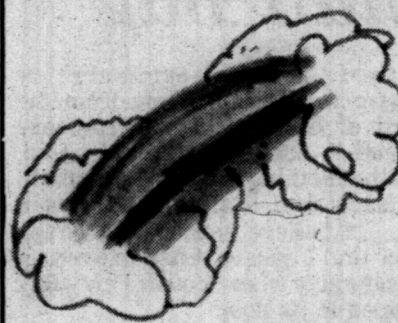
Pen Pal Club

Hi!
My name is Kelly. And I am 8^{1/2}. In September I will be 9. I would love to have a pen pal. I just love to read and write. My hobbies are playing ball. I would like to have a girl or boy write to me.

Love,
Kelly

P.S. My address is:
Kelly Cooper
178 Blasingame Dr.
Columbus, MS

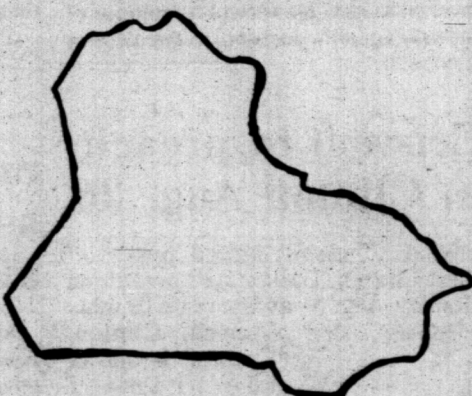
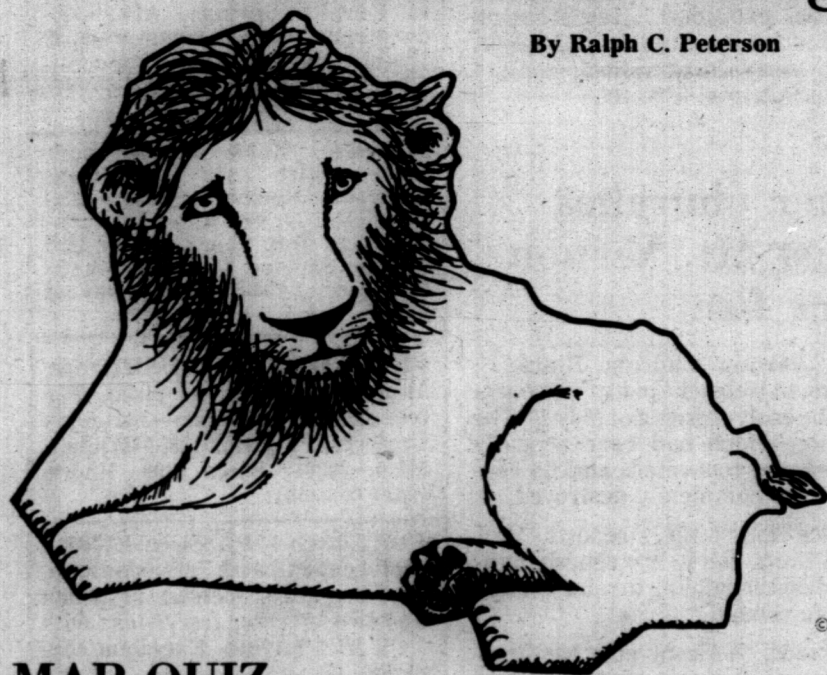
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Kelly Cooper
178 Blasingame Dr.
Columbus, MS
39702

GEOGRAFUN: (For young readers) Nations and Imaginations

By Ralph C. Peterson



The map of Iraq resembles a lion.
Can you see a lion in the map at the right?
Color the picture.

© 1991 R. Peterson

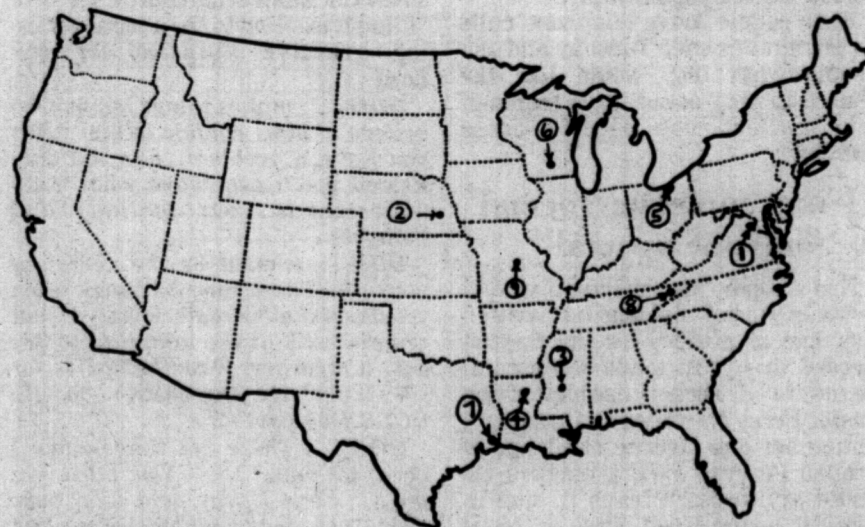
MAP QUIZ

The cities on the map of the U.S. all have names which are the same as some of our presidents. Can you name these cities? Can you think of any others?

1. _____ This city is the capital of the U.S. It is named after our first president.
2. _____ This city is the capital of Nebraska. It has the same name as our 16th president who "saved the union."
3. _____ This city is the capital of Mississippi. It has the same name as our 7th president, the hero of the Battle of New Orleans, who was known as "Old Hickory."
4. _____ This city lies east of Shreveport, LA on the Ouachita River. It has the same name as our 5th president who is known for his famous doctrine protecting the Western Hemisphere.
5. _____ This large city in Ohio is on Lake Erie. It has the same name as our 22nd and 24th

6. _____ This city is the capital of Wisconsin. It has the same name as our 4th president who was known as "the Father of the Constitution."
7. Port _____ This city in southeast Texas is located near the Gulf of Mexico. It has the same name as our 21st president who succeeded Garfield when he was assassinated in 1881.
8. _____ City This city in Tennessee has the same name as two of our presidents, both of whom succeeded a president who was assassinated. The most recent one served from 1963-1969.
9. _____ City This city is the capital of Missouri. It has the same name as our 3rd president who wrote the Declaration of Independence.

Answers: 1. Washington, DC 2. Lincoln, Nebraska
3. Jackson, MS 4. Monroe, LA 5. Cleveland, OH
6. Madison, Wisconsin 7. Port Arthur, TX
8. Johnson City, Tennessee 9. Jefferson City, Missouri



HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 22, 1991

HOUSE TOPS is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Just the Facts, Please

by John Voss, Legal Counsel
MBCB

A few years ago, Sergeant Joe Friday, who was the no-nonsense detective on "Dragnet," would use this phrase to encourage a witness to recount those basic things which the witness had personally seen, heard, or experienced, rather than babbling on in meaningless conversation. A Christian witness would do well to follow Sgt. Friday's advice: When sharing your testimony about Christ, don't engage in meaningless chitchat, but rather share the facts in your own personal life about the new life which you have experienced in Christ. Relate how you know that your sins have been forgiven and that you now have the assurance of everlasting life. An effective witness should share what changes he has seen in the lives of others and how he has personally seen the miraculous and powerful presence of the Holy Spirit transforming an old condemned sinner into a new creature in Christ. An effective witness is one who also can testify what he has heard others tell regarding their own experiences with Christ.

John the Baptist heard while in prison about the works of Christ. He sent two of his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the Coming One, or do we look for another?" Jesus responded, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind receive their sight and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them." Jesus simply told John's disciples not to worry about some deep and detailed explanation for his miraculous ministry. It was as if he were saying to them, "Just tell the facts!" So should we. **HT**

This series of articles deals with how to become a Christian or how to share your faith. Articles by others will follow in future issues of HouseTops.

PRAYER LINE

The Mississippi Baptist Intercessory Prayer line is in contact with people over the state. Requests are varied and often extremely urgent. Such requests include the following: deaths, accidents, operations, times of crisis in families and in churches and important decisions that must be made. One person called to say, "I am unemployed and sick. Please put me on the prayer list. I don't have money to call often, but just pray that God will give me strength to get through these difficult days."

There have also been calls from Bold Mission Prayer Thrust Associational Coordinators. One very enthusiasti-

cally explained that her church had a complete prayer ministry with prayer room, emergency prayer line, prayergrams and a prayer luncheon quarterly for a fine group of intercessors. "I am excited over the prospects!" she said.

One person called from a smaller rural church: "I have just been named as Prayer Coordinator for my church. We need help as to how to begin this ministry and how to carry it on. Please tell us what is being done in other churches of Mississippi. Suggest materials we can use as we begin. Could you come and meet with us sometime in the future?"

Charles and Indy Whitten, retired

Southern Baptist missionaries, are the Coordinators of the Mississippi Baptist Prayer Line. The Prayer Line number 969-PRAY is open day and night to receive prayer messages and requests. At the sound of the beep you may leave your prayer requests.

II Chronicles 7:14 is God's invitation to Christian people the world over: "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and heal their land."

In united prayer there is power. Think of what could happen in Mississippi and the world if a network of united prayer should be set up in this state. **HT**

Over 50 conferences
including

DiscipleALL
LIFE Courses
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Special Interests

REGISTRATION

\$6.00
includes
Meal/Materials/
Bookstore coupon

DISCIPLESHIP Spectacular

SEPTEMBER 13-14, 1991
Memphis, Tennessee • Highland Heights Baptist Church
THEME: DiscipleALL: Discipleship Training for all Members

SPECTACULAR
MUSIC
DAVID FORD and
church choirs

Friends of
Discipleship
Training
Recognized

BARBECUE SUPPER
Western Style
Friday—5:45 p.m.
Included in
registration fee.

SPECTACULAR
SPEAKERS
Roy Edgemon, Nash.
T. W. Hunt, Nash.
Perry Sanders
Lafayette, Louisiana
Frank Pollard
Jackson, Mississippi

Sponsored by:
Baptist Sunday School Board
Discipleship Training Department
Tennessee Baptist Convention
Discipleship Training Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention
Shelby Baptist Association

See registration form on back of HOUSE TOPS

Q&A

About Sunday School Literature

Q: What's improved?

What's new?

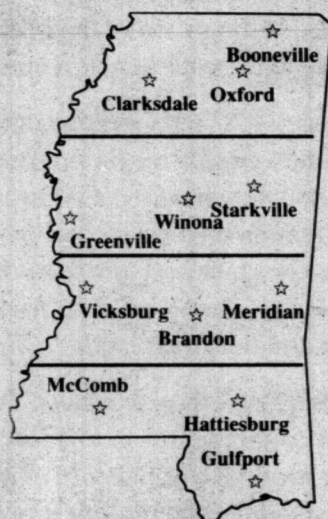
What's changed?

A: *Sunday School Literature*

Q: Where can I get the latest information on the improvements and how to use the Sunday School Curriculum?

A: *Church Leadership Training Conferences*

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the following locations



OCT 5 — Oakhurst BC, Clarksdale; FBC, Oxford; FBC Booneville

OCT 26 — FBC, Greenville; FBC, Winona & No. Winona BC; FBC, Starkville

OCT 19 — FBC, Vicksburg; Crossgates BC, Brandon; FBC, Meridian

OCT 12 — FBC, McComb; Main Street BC, Hattiesburg; FBC Gulfport

Q: What will be offered for Sunday School leaders?

A: *Conferences for general officers, adult department directors, adult teachers, youth teachers, older children's teachers, middle children's teachers, younger children's teachers, older preschool teachers, middle preschool teachers, and younger preschool teachers.*

GOLD DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING AWARD

Discipleship Training Directors should begin checking off their application for the Gold Discipleship Training Award for 1991. The application is due in the Mississippi Discipleship Training Department office by November 1. The awards will be presented at the Associational "M" Nights - or other associational meeting.

There were approximately 100 churches earning the award last year. These awards represent outstanding work in the local church in this program area. It is a good goal setting instrument for Discipleship Training programs and worthy of all consideration. **HT**

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

6-7

Sunday School Leadership Conference at Gulfshore

13-14

Sunday School Leadership Conference at Gulfshore

29

Day of Prayer for Sunday School BREAKTHROUGH

OCTOBER

5

Church Leadership Training including . . . Sunday School Literature Interpretation
Oakhurst BC, Clarksdale;
FBC, Oxford; FBC, Booneville

6

• Sunday School BREAKTHROUGH Launch Day

7

Black Church SS Growth Seminar, Baptist Building

12

Church Leadership Training including . . . Sunday School Literature Interpretation
FBC, McComb; Main St., Hattiesburg;
FBC, Gulfport

19

Church Leadership Training including . . . Sunday School Literature Interpretation
FBC, Vicksburg; Crossgates, Brandon;
FBC, Meridian

26

Church Leadership Training including . . . Sunday School Literature Interpretation
FBC, Greenville; FBC, Winona & N. Winona;
FBC, Starkville

27

High Attendance Day

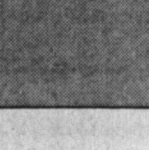
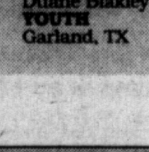
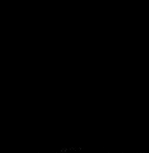
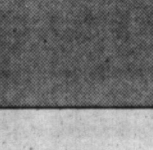
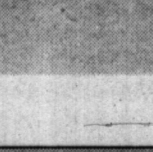
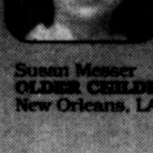
State
• Preschool
• Children
• Youth
Choir
Leadership
Clinic

September 6-7
1991
Alta Woods
Baptist Church
Jackson, MS

FEATURING—the new How to Lead study course books for Preschool/Children's choir workers.

Study Course Credit will be given in all age groups.

This program is sponsored by the
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD
Bill Causey, Executive Director-Treasurer
Eugene Dobbs, Administrative Assistant for Ministry
CHURCH MUSIC DEPARTMENT
L. Graham Smith, Director
Sarah Talley, Preschool/Children's Choirs Contract Consultant
Susan Clark, Youth/Drama Contract Consultant



HOUSE OF GOD

September 10, 1991

NORTH MISSISSIPPI CLINIC

for all Church
Weekday Education
Care givers
and Directors

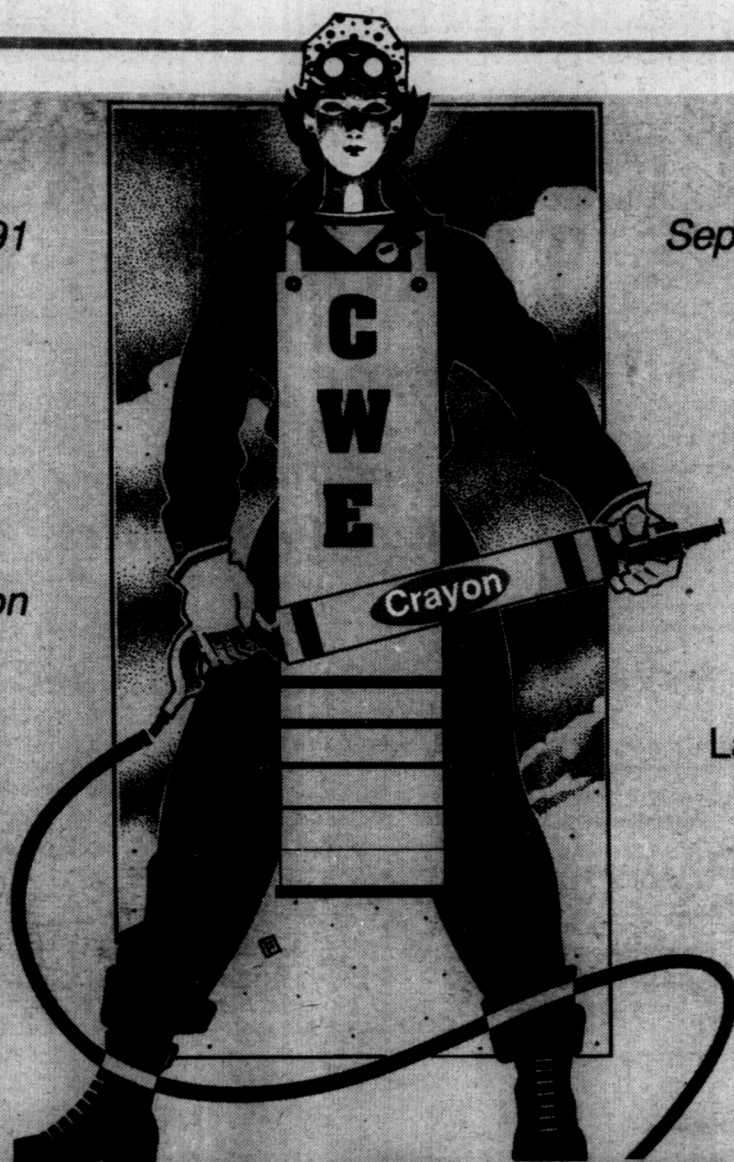
East End Baptist
Church
Columbus,
Mississippi

September 26-27, 1991

RETREAT FOR DIRECTORS

of Weekday
Education
Programs

Lake Tiak-O'Khata
near
Louisville,
Mississippi



BUILDING THE FUTURE

For more information on either of these events
call David Morrow at 968-3800, ext. 3887

KEY LEADER SEMINAR

"Managing Human Resources in the Church"

September 10, 1991
Baptist Building, Jackson

LEADER:

Tim Holcomb, consultant, Church Administration
Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville

AUDIENCE:

Pastors, staff with personnel supervisory roles, person-
nel committee members

PURPOSE:

Personnel administration in a Southern Baptist Church
may be no different from personnel administration in
other not-for-profit organizations. The Church Person-
nel Administration Guide provides Southern Baptist
churches with a resource in planning for personnel
needs. The Guide focuses on the relationship between
the employer and employee. It helps staffs and person-
nel committees determine effective organizational
structure. The Guide proposes effective appraisal
methods that give staff members and personnel com-
mittees good evaluation tools.

RESOURCES:

The Church Personnel Administration Guide, Tim
Holcomb, compiler

The Church Personnel Committee (Program Help)

REGISTRATION FEE:

\$10.00 to cover the cost of materials and one meal

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

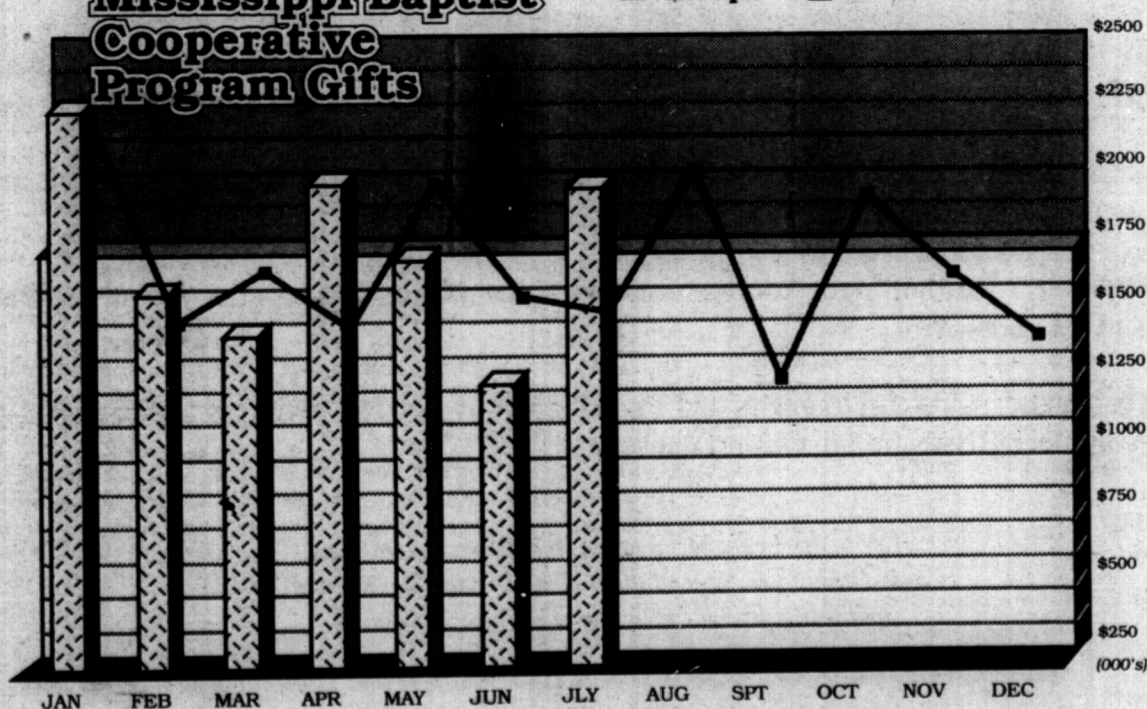
Julius C. Thompson, Church Administration-Pastoral
Ministries Department, MBCB, 968-3800, extension
3905. HT

KEY LEADER AGENDA

- 9:00 Registration
- 9:30 Overview of Personnel Administration
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Church Personnel Administration
..Organizational Guidelines
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Church Personnel Administration
..Technical Processes
- 2:15 Break
- 2:30 Church Personnel Administration
..Relational Skills
- 3:30 Adjourn

1991 Mississippi Baptist Cooperative Program Gifts

Receipts Needs 1990



1991 Total Cooperative Program Budget Goal \$20,949,962
1991 Cooperative Program Receipts thru July \$12,264,192
1991 Cooperative program Over Goal to Date \$43,381

DISCIPLESHIP **Spectacular** REGISTRATION FORM

Please Register the following person/s . . .

Enclosed is \$ _____ to cover the registration fee of \$6.00 per person. This fee includes materials, Friday Supper, and Bookstore Coupon.

DEADLINE—FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Contact Person for group (listed above) . . .

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Telephone _____

Church _____

Association _____

PRESCHOOL CARE AVAILABLE

Must pre-register for Preschool Care. Please give total number of children by ages.

Birth through 2 yrs _____ 3 yrs. through 5 yrs. _____

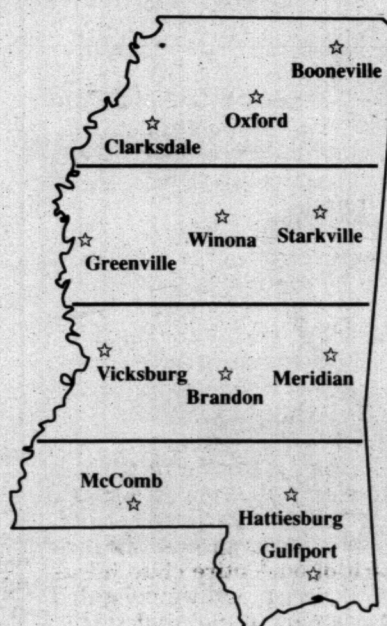
CLIP AND MAIL THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT TO . . .
 Discipleship Training Department
 P.O. Box 728
 Brentwood, Tennessee 37024-0728

CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

October 1991

**12 Locations
 24 Specialized Conferences**

GOAL: Every Church Leader Equipped to Lead!



OCT 5 — Oakhurst BC, Clarksdale; FBC, Oxford; FBC, Booneville

OCT 26 — FBC, Greenville; FBC, Winona & No. Winona BC; FBC, Starkville

OCT 19 — FBC, Vicksburg; Crossgates BC, Brandon; FBC, Meridian

OCT 12 — FBC, McComb; Main Street BC, Hattiesburg; FBC, Gulfport

9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. *

Church Administration: Deacon Chairmen; Pastor of Single Staff Church; Pastor of Large Church.

WMU: *Called and Accountable* - 1991-1992 emphasis book. Learning stations to include age-level organizations, new StudiAct and Missions Adventures materials, and new products.

Sunday School: How to understand and use improved Sunday School curriculum materials for effective Sunday School work for general officers and age-group workers.

Discipleship Training: Each age group will explore Discipleship Training materials and methods of training.

Brotherhood: Brotherhood Administration/Baptist Men's Leadership; Royal Ambassador Leadership.

Church Music: Church Organists and Pianists; Choir Leaders/Workers for Grades 1-6; Volunteer/Bivocational Music Directors.

*Helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus
 as we equip every member to discover, develop his/her
 spiritual gifts for service in the church's mission.*

Sponsored by Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Eugene H. Dobbs, Administrative Assistant for Ministry

* Bring a sack lunch. Drinks will be provided.

MissionsUSA

Missions Magazine Vol. 8 No. 2
MIIB

Miracle on McArthur Boulevard
 See how one Southern Baptist church turned a run-down motel on the meanest street in Oakland, Calif., into homes for the homeless.

Contact Dept. of
 Broadcast Services,
 MBCB (968-3800)



HOUSE OF JONS

capsules

QUICK ELECTED CHAIRMAN: The Southern Baptist Education Commission elected new officers for 1991-92, during their annual meeting June 24, in Charlotte, N.C. **Van D. Quick**, vice-president for student personnel at Mississippi College, was elected chairman; Jerry Henry, pastor, Elkdale Church, Selma, Ala., as vice chairman; and Betty Jo Cooley, lay person, Chesnee, S.C. as secretary.

CHAFIN TO RETIRE: LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Kenneth L. Chafin, pastor of Walnut Street Church in Louisville, Ky., will retire on his 65th birthday, Nov. 18. Chafin has been pastor of the 6,400-member congregation since April 1988. The former seminary professor has been a leader in the moderate-conservative movement in the Southern Baptist Convention during the past decade. "I'm feeling great, but there are things I want to do," he explained. "The energy that being in better health has brought me has renewed a sense of stewardship of the things I've learned in 45 years of preaching and teaching." Chafin taught at Southern Seminary in Louisville twice: as the Billy Graham professor of evangelism, 1965-69, and as the Carl Bates professor of Christian preaching, 1984-88. He was a professor at Southwestern Seminary, 1957-65; evangelism director for the Home Mission Board, 1969-72; and pastor of South Main Church in Houston, 1972-84. Chafin said he and his wife, Barbara Ann, will remain in Louisville and will maintain their membership at Walnut Street.

RADIO STATION 'MARTIN LUTHER KING' DEDICATED IN ITALY: TAURIANOVA, ITALY — According to local believers, one would have to go back to the early 1950s to find an experience analogous in importance for the gospel to the service held recently in Taurianova. At that time, the Italian Baptist Union President Manfredi Ronchi, although challenged by the Carabinieri to stop preaching to the large crowd gathered in a school, went right on preaching. This time, however, there were no interruptions, and the service took place inside the studios of the Christian radio station, "Martin Luther King." The comparable importance of the meeting was unmistakable. The dedicatory service in March, 1991, was attended by people from elsewhere in the region of Calabria and from Sicily. The FM station's name was chosen because it intends to follow the reformer's model in seeking to break down all ethnic, cultural and racial barriers. "Martin Luther King" has already been in the front line of the battle against certain social ills of the region. The Department of Evangelism of the Italian Baptist Union, the Waldensian Synod, and the Protestant Federation will all contribute to the financial needs of the station, as will private donors. — EBPS

DOES GORBACHEV BELIEVE IN GOD?: MOSCOW — Does Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev believe in God? Or is he using his considerable public relations skills to win desperately needed friends among believers at home and abroad? Speculation on these questions resumed after Gorbachev said "Thank God . . . that we stopped" the arms race during his recent summit meeting George Bush in Moscow. He also paraphrased a verse from the biblical book of Ecclesiastes about gathering stones as he said farewell to Bush. Gorbachev mentions the name of God with increasing frequency in public statements. He reportedly was baptized as a child (although that alone doesn't necessarily mean he is a Christian; Stalin attended seminary before becoming a communist). He has met twice with evangelist Billy Graham — including a 40-minute private chat in July when Graham was in Moscow — and with other religious leaders. And most important of all, he has proposed that members of the Communist Party, the last bastion of staunch atheism in Soviet society, be allowed to embrace religion while remaining party members.

ISLAM STORMS PRINT, RADIO MEDIA: MEDINA, Saudi Arabia — The largest printing plant in the world has been opened in Medina to print the Koran, according to UBS World Report. The plant, opened by Saudi King Fahd, will print as many as 28 million copies of Islam's holy book each year. Meanwhile, "electronic imams" who preach Muslim messages on the radio are becoming increasingly influential in Saudi Arabia, Egypt and other Arab countries, reported the New York Times. One Muslim radio preacher in Cairo claims he is more influential than Billy Graham.

"BEYOND COMPASSION: A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE": ACTS will air "Beyond Compassion: Christian Response" on Aug. 26 at 8-8:30 p.m. CST and on Aug. 30 at 7:30-8 p.m. CST. It is a presentation of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Following the end of the Persian Gulf War, Southern Baptists provided relief efforts to the Kurdish refugees. This special program focuses on the medical relief teams that worked in Northern Iraq. It also visits the feeding teams that worked in Western Iran in May 1991. "Beyond Compassion: A Christian Response" depicts the Kurdish relief effort as a victory of cooperation and faith for persons who dared to choose an active expression of their Christian concern. The work forged new links with other Christian groups and with several Middle Eastern governments.

SCHOOL OFFICIALS SUED FOR CENSORSHIP AFTER REJECTING PAPER ON LIFE OF CHRIST: DICKSON, Tenn. (EP) — A ninth grade student at Dickson County Junior High School in Dickson, Tennessee, sued the school board in U.S. District Court July 18, charging that school officials violated her free speech rights by censoring a research paper based on its religious content. According to the complaint, Brittney Settle was told by her teacher that her choice of "The Life of Christ" as a research topic was unacceptable, even though other students were allowed to write on such topics as the occult, reincarnation, and spiritualism. Originally, the teacher's only stipulation was that topics had to be "decent." When her teacher and other school officials rejected Settle's proposed outline for a paper on the life of Christ, she was given a zero grade for the assignment. The suit alleges that in censorship the paper, school officials violated Settle's rights to free speech, religious liberty, and equal protection under the law. The suit seeks damages in excess of \$50,000. Kurt Beasley, a Rutherford Institute attorney representing Settle, says school officials overstepped their bounds. "This is censorship, plain and simple," he said. "The First Amendment was written to prevent government officials from doing the very thing they've done here — choosing which viewpoints they will allow and which ones they won't. High schools are, after all, the so-called 'marketplace of ideas.'"

TWO BROADMAN SALES CLUBS ENDING IN SEPTEMBER — NASHVILLE — Two Broadman sales clubs, the Broadman Library Book Service and the Church Audiovisual Education Plan, will be discontinued Sept. 30. The library book service which began in 1970 offered books and library supplies to church media libraries at discount prices. Churches enrolled in the CAVE plan received reduced rates on Broadman audiovisuals.

Bibles take gold in Pan-Am games in Cuba

In his latest column, Dan Wooding, a regular visitor to Cuba, reports that the Pan Am Games that took place in Cuba in early August brought a surprise winner — the Bible:

There was a surprise winner at the XI Pan Am Games that took place in Cuba during early August. It was the Word of God.

One million Scripture portions were handed out during the games as the 5,259 athletes from 39 countries competed for gold.

Yes, it's true. El Comandante Fidel Castro had given permission for Bible Societies around the world to print one million Scripture portions to be given away during the games in Havana and across the island to Santiago de Cuba.

And, on top of this, permission was also granted to these Bible Societies to supply a total of 50,000 Bibles,

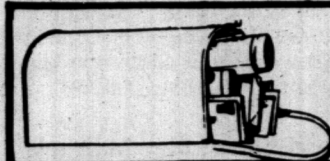
20,000 New Testaments and 30,000 other Scripture portions to Cuban Christians, young people and even atheists.

The Scriptures were (and still are) being distributed by Protestant and Roman Catholic churches, while the government tourist agency is distributing 15,000 Bibles in hotels.

Everywhere Bibles become available, they are bought by eager Cubans.

According to Bible Societies' officials, in one town people in a long line to buy pizzas and ice cream abandoned their places when they heard that a bookshop round the corner was selling Bibles.

Government bookshops started selling copies of the Bible last December and, in the last 16 months, the Bible Societies have distributed over 40,000 Bibles throughout the island.



Letters to the editor

On the role of WMU

Editor:

Until recently, I would have reacted to Carolyn Miller's statements ("National WMU president outlines women's role," July 18, 1991) in the same way as did Brad and Pam Becker. I still cannot agree with everything Mrs. Miller said, but today I do understand better where she is coming from.

Our church WMU has long been characterized by the type women described by the Beckers — "godly, fervent, and effective" missions doers. We did not and do not "brandish the WMU banner." But we are not ashamed to be doing what we are doing through the WMU organization.

We have always worked well with our pastor and staff. We've tried to fulfill our role in the church, without infringing on the roles of other church organizations and programs. The missions spirit of our entire church was alive and thriving, and we delighted in doing our part to fuel that spirit.

Recently, our church welcomed two new staff members. And, suddenly, we who belong to WMU are the enemy. We have no major theological differences with our staff. We have bent over backward to be cooperative and supportive. Yet we regularly find ourselves having to fight for our lives.

Now, I know the word "fight" may sound a bit "militantly feminist." But most of the fighting we've done has been on our knees in prayer. Other times, as God has led, we've made appeals to staff members or to our church family.

We are not "rebellious and defiant." Rather, we are alarmed and confused. God has been breathing out his life through our WMU and through our church's missions involvement. Yet, two men are trying to strangle that life out of us. Does "submission" mean letting them do it?

Wives are to submit to their husbands. But if a wife is being abused, can she not cry out? Can she not seek help?

Granted, some women in our denomination may be militantly feminist. But that factor, in itself, does not expose "the root of the controversy."

(Name withheld by editor)

No liberals in the SBC?

Editor:

I am in a quandary! I have been assured again and again by this paper that there are no liberals in the Southern Baptist Convention and that we are all conservatives; but in the most recent issue of the Baptist Record, in an article about the rash of resignations at Southeastern Seminary there is this statement, "After opposing the conservative trend for four years, Southeastern's faculty, by most accounts have given

up the fight."

My question is, "Fight against what?" Against conservatism? I thought that is what we always have been; at least that is what you say. I have been a Southern Baptist for more than 50 years, and spent much of that time in Mississippi. I dearly love Mississippi Baptists and I found while living there that they are Bible-believing, conservative people. If my memory serves me right, some of the giants of the faith, all of whom were conservative, came from that state. From the tone of this news story, the cause they espoused is now the enemy of Southern Baptists. This is a sad day for me.

As I understand the work of our convention: the convention, in conference assembled, elects the trustees, who in turn supervise the affairs of our institutions. Now, I know that many are unhappy about the direction of some of our recent conventions, just as I was unhappy about what I saw happen at many, many conventions I attended over 38 years. But, when the majority spoke, I went along, even though my agenda lost. This is the Baptist way, or so it should be.

I never, in my life, pastored a church that gave less than 10% to the Cooperative Program, even though I knew, by personal observation, that there was liberalism in our schools.

It is high time we start acting like Christians and not like children.

"But whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows, and saying, we have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented" Matthew 11:16-17.

Perhaps the rash of resignations at Southeastern may be explained by, "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt continued with us; but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us" (1 John 2:19).

M. R. Megginson
Semmes, AL

Thanks for coupons

Dear Sir:

Several months ago I wrote an article to the Baptist Record asking for Betty Crocker coupons. The response was overwhelming. We now have enough coupons to supply our church kitchen.

I would also like to report that we had our first Vacation Bible School in our new church building. We had 62 enrolled with a nightly average of 45. We collect \$98.52 in offering. It was a great success.

Baptist Record readers, thanks so much for your help in the success of our church.

Shirley Culpepper
Lifeline Baptist Church
Florence

Baptists should hear Baldrige

Editor:

Thank you for publishing the cry of pain from Professor Bill Baldrige ("Native Baptist professor calls for halt to spiritual oppression," Baptist Record, Aug. 8, 1991, reprinted from the BPFNA publication). His work place is given as "Central Seminary"; surely they meant "Midwestern?"

Perhaps his most cogent indictment is the charge that we (the church) are "pulling guard duty for Jesus," and that we fear "someone will steal Jesus and proclaim he has come alive in their midst."

Thoughtful and committed Baptists should hear this man — and critically re-examine our missiology.

Glen Pearson
Hattiesburg

Baldrige is a faculty member at Central Baptist Seminary. — Editor

Hurray for Southern Baptists

Editor:

Recently, I read your article, "Heartbreak ridge" in the July 25th edition of the Baptist Record. You said that people are tired of hearing about the controversy in the SBC. I'm one of those people! However, about the only time I ever hear about "the controversy" is when I read about it in the Baptist Record. As far as I am concerned, we're on the road to recovery.

I'm sure it's true that we have some real "troublemakers" in the SBC today. However, more than likely, the SBC had some of them before 1979, when all of this supposedly began. It's just that Baptists didn't hear so much about them, then.

I came from a "liberal" denomination to the Southern Baptist Convention in the early 1980s. I left that denomination primarily because of what was being taught in their seminaries. As a young man coming from a rural church, I didn't want "liberal" (or moderate) minded professors planting seeds of doubt in my mind about the reliability and inerrancy of the Word of God.

The Bible exhorts Christians to "earnestly contend for the faith" (Jude 3). I'm for seeking "peace," but not through compromise! I thank God for the leadership throughout the SBC who have been "contending for the faith" for the past 12 years. I say, "HURRAY FOR SOUTHERN BAPTISTS," and "GLORY BE UNTO GOD!" Let's keep taking our stand for the Lord Jesus, his Word, and the preaching of the gospel of Christ. May other denominations join us.

Dwight L. Sibley, pastor
Beulah Baptist Church
Myrtle

Church tour group sees power of prayer when one of them nearly drowns in pool

When 12-year-old Jennifer Skelton walked into Faith Baptist Church at Hickory Flat on a recent Sunday night, church members rushed to embrace her. It was as if they were welcoming her back from the dead, for some of them had last seen her, not breathing, beside a Nashville swimming pool.

On June 20, when 26 Faith members were in Nashville to visit Opryland, they went to the motel pool to cool off. Though Jennifer could swim, she went under the water and did not come up. Her mother, Sandra Byrd, who was watching, called for help. Brent Nance, 12, and Eddie Thompson Jr., 17, brought her to the surface. Her mother and grandmother, Lillian Jones, pulled her out with the help of Ellis Perkins.

Jennifer was not breathing and there was no heartbeat. Tammie Reeder, wife of the Faith pastor, Glen Reeder, is a registered nurse; she began CPR. Then a truckdriver sitting by the pool took over the CPR.

Later Mrs. Reeder told a newspaper writer, Maxine Mroz, "I never saw his face; I was watching his hands as they worked with her. I'd know those hands if I saw them again. All the time he

was working with her, he was praying under his breath." The other church members gathered in a group and prayed. A woman reading a book at a poolside table called 911.

Paramedics used electric shock to stabilize Jennifer's heart. Jennifer was in the emergency room at General Hospital and then transferred to the intensive care unit at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital where she stayed two weeks, eight days. She suffered one relapse when a scab from her throat loosened and passed into her lung. Nashville churches put her on their prayer lists.

The Faith group went on with their tour, but took shifts going to the hospital.

Said Jennifer's mother, "The doctors told us the first 72 hours would be critical and they did not know if there would be any brain damage. I thank the Lord for giving Jennifer back to me. I realize he has other plans in store for her. She is now healthy and well."

When Jennifer returned to church and received a royal welcome, Mrs. Reeder said, "We had all seen the glory of the power of prayer."



Alabama volunteers work at Crestwood Center

Twenty-nine volunteers from First Church, Haleyville, Ala., including 15 adults and 14 youths, worked at the Crestwood Center in Jackson July 22-26, leading in a Vacation Bible School and in painting and repairing a house that is a part of the center's property. The total enrollment for the week's VBS reached 262. Three made professions of faith.

Six of the 29 from Haleyville worked from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. installing new windows (right) and doors and painting the interior of the house. According to Shari Barnes, associate director, Crestwood Center, the building is to be used for children's programs. Seven young people from First Church, Jackson, had worked on the house the week before, readying it for the Haleyville group, and scraping paint from the exterior. The Bible school, for ages 4-12, took place in the afternoons, in the back yard of the center (above).

Violette Defoor of Haleyville said, "I have been going on mission trips for 13 years, and of all of them, I have enjoyed this one most. It amazes me what all goes on here! I have had a ball typing, going to buy groceries, and doing anything they gave me to do."

The Haleyville pastor, Richard Trader, was among the work volunteers.



Missionary news

Dennis and Sherrie Meilstrup, missionaries to Argentina, are on the field (address: Rastreador Fournier 3056, 1638 Vicente Lopez, Buenos Aires, Argentina). He was born in South Bend, Ind. The former Sherrie Walker of Mississippi, she was born in Meridian and considers Flora her hometown.

Uless and Mary Lee Bergeron, missionary associates to Peru, have completed language study and arrived on their field of service (address: Apartado 3177, Lima, Peru). He is a native of Pass Christian, Miss. The former Mary Lee Garcia, she was born in New Orleans, La., and considers Bay St. Louis, Miss., her hometown.

Philip and Sheila Marshall, missionaries to Thailand, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: P. O. Box 832, Bangkok 10501, Thailand). He was born in Bangkok, Thailand, and also lived in Natchez, Miss., and Baker, La. The former Sheila Thrash, was born in Georgia.

John and Claudia Brown, missionaries to Mozambique, are on the field (address: Rua Castanheda No. 24, Maputo, Mozambique). He is a native of Arkansas. The former Claudia Tenney, she was born in Ohio, and considers Jackson, Miss., her hometown.

Wayne and Florence Frederick are now on the mission field in France. Their address is 26 Rue du Haut Pressoir, 49000 Angers, France.

Mark and Cecile Alexander, missionaries to Argentina since 1956, have retired from active missionary service. They lived in Mar del Plata, Argentina, where he served as a general evangelist and she was a church and home worker. He is a native of Norfolk, Va., and she is the former Cecile Price of Corinth, Miss. They may be addressed at 450 Rasa Dr., San Antonio, Texas 78227.

John and Kathy Vaughn, missionaries to Brazil, are in the States (address: P. O. Box 13, Scooba, MS 39358). A native of Mississippi, he was born in DeKalb and considers Scooba his hometown. The former Kathy Johnson, she was born in Andrews, Texas, and considers Oak Grove, La., her hometown.

John and Cheryl Hamilton, missionaries to Leeward Island, are in the States (address: 213 Marsheutz Ave., Huntsville, Ala. 35801). He was born in Columbus, Ga. The former Cheryl Rector, she was born in Biloxi, Miss.

Alvin and Elizabeth Bailey, missionaries to Guatemala, have arrived at language school (address: Costa Rican Language School, 2350 San Francisco de Dos Rios, San Jose, Costa Rica). He is a native of Milledgeville, Ga. The former Elizabeth Walker, she was born in Jackson, Miss., and considers Ripley, Miss., her hometown.

Donald and Rose McCain, missionaries to Portugal, are on the field (address: Praceta Eugenio de Castro, No. 4, 1-E, Carnaxide, 2795 Linda-A-Velha, Portugal). He was born in Greenville, Miss. She is the former Rose McGarrh of Eupora.

Hugh and Brenda Provost, Baptist representatives to Yemen, are in the States (address: 2017 Howard Dr., Pine Bluff, Ark. 71603). He was born in Jonesboro, Ark., and grew up in Belzoni, Miss., and in Arkansas. She is the former Brenda Bryles of Pine Bluff, Ark.

Charles and Sheryl Ray, missionaries to Korea, are in the States (address: 1816 Flowers Dr., Jackson, Miss. 39204). He was born in New Orleans, La., and considers Greenwood, Miss., his hometown. She is the former Sheryl Smith of Jackson, Miss.

Hugh and Debbie Redmon, missionaries to Venezuela, are in the States (address: First Baptist Church, 1719 Robinson, Conway, Ark. 72032). Son of Southern Baptist missionaries in Costa Rica, he was born in Jackson, Miss., and considers San Jose, Costa Rica, his hometown. Daughter of missionaries to the Ivory Coast, she was born in Fort Worth, Texas, and considers Abidjan, Ivory Coast, her hometown.

Steve and Vidonia Smith, missionaries to Argentina, are on the field (address: Casilla De Correo 474, 5400 San Juan, Argentina). He was born in Santa Monica, Calif., and considers Hattiesburg, Miss., his hometown. The former Vidonia Smith, she was born in Houston, Texas, and considers White Oak, Miss., her hometown.

FBC of Glendale to celebrate 100th year

First Church of Glendale, Hattiesburg, will celebrate its centennial and have homecoming services on Aug. 25 at 11 a.m. The guest speaker will be Cliff Estes. John Greene will be in charge of the music. Dinner on the grounds will be served at noon. Centennial celebration will be held at 1:30 p.m. Brian Ivey is pastor.

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Just for the Record

Thursday, August 22, 1991

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

"God and us . . . then and now"

Mt. Olive Church, Smithdale will celebrate its centennial

Brethren near Rocky Branch schoolhouse organized Mt. Olive Church, Smithdale, Amite County on Sept. 5, 1891. Thirty participants at that first meeting were used in beginning of a fellowship that has stood for 100 years.

Charter members included Pate, McGehee, Williams, Young, Westbrook, Fleming, Carrol, Adams, and Wroten families.

Sept. 5-8, 1991, with descendants of original charter families participating, Mt. Olive will celebrate.

Historical highlights will be featured during the following activities which include eight former pastors and ten former music staff members:

Thursday, Sept. 5, Candlelight ceremony

Friday, Sept. 6, Old camp meeting service

Saturday, Sept. 7, Open House 6 p.m., with service following

Sunday, Sept. 8, "God and Us — Then and Now" Celebration

Each evening service will begin at 7 p.m. (Open House on Saturday will begin at 6 p.m. and will follow the worship service) and refreshments will be provided following services.

Members will dress in the 1891 style for Sunday services which will begin

at 10 a.m. with recognition of all descendants of charter members and with lunch at noon. The afternoon service, including centennial presentations, will be at 1:30.

Mt. Olive Church became a member of the first Southern Baptist association in the state; first pastor was Elisha Gardner; first song book was Gospel Hymns Song Book #5; first building was 40' x 50' and cost \$551.53; first protracted meeting was in July 1892 with R. J. Stewart preaching; first recorded missions activities began in December 1892, first Sunday School was in January 1893; Annie Williams was first organist in 1901.

"Today God is granting firsts at Mt. Olive. Tomorrow there will be other new opportunities of service to our Master and Lord Jesus Christ," said Irene Johnston of the Centennial Committee.

"The invitation from our 290 members is to each who desires to come and celebrate with us."

"Would anyone of us trade our eyes, our legs, or our arms for a million dollars? Most of us are already blessed with riches that we don't realize or appreciate."



First Church, Tupelo, held a Recognition Service for its RAs on Sunday night, May 5. Pictured front row, left to right, are Jonathan Bearden, Steven Ellis, Christopher Hopson, Todd Kennedy, Taylor Mathis, Justin Sapp, Phillip Shook, Matt Stevens; second row, Wanda Ellis, counselor, D. W. Blackwell, Jason Stacy, Shawn Ellis, Joseph Smothers, Scott Davis, Tyler Young; third row, Carol Bearden, counselor, Harlan Weir, Casey Braswell, Jason Zemek, Blake Miller, Adrian Dickey, Michael Poland, Matthew Hawks, Luke Heatherly, Jimmy

Bearden, Suzette Young, counselor; fourth row, Jamie Zemek, Rusty Fly, Drew Dickey, Chad Johnston, Emory Nash Collins, Jeremy Sapp, Brian Smothers, Jared Fly, John Pittman, counselor, Danny Dickey, counselor; fifth row, Terry Heatherly, counselor, Marty Harrelson, RA director, Stennis Young, counselor, Bobby Sapp, counselor, Bonnie Sapp, counselor, Phyllis Hopson, counselor, and Gerald Pittman, counselor. Gayle Alexander is pastor.



The GAs and Mission Friends of Lake Harbor Church, Rankin Association, recently held its coronation. The girls shared scripture verses they had learned and presented a puppet show. After the service, refreshments were served by the GAs and Mission Friends. Pictured are Deanna Tagert, Lindsay Wilson, Rachel Eure, Mandy Dodson, Jordana Wilson, Amy Milton, and Mrs. Joy Rachel, director. Roy Clark is pastor.



Woodlawn Church, Vicksburg, recently held its Acteen Recognition Service. The theme was "This is Our Day." Pictured, Queens with Scepter, left to right, are Shannon White, Angela Wells, Kasey Keith, Ami Hensarling; Queens are, Krissy Oldenburg and Rachel Moore. Director is Amy Ross. Leaders are Missy Rorie and Bobbie Harbin.

The youth choir of Salem Church, Collins, will present "Heroes II" on Aug. 25, at 4 and 6:30 p.m. The musical is directed by Gwen Hitt with Dusty Bryant, Shannon Bryant, Becky Ellis, Carter Hitt, Cape Jones, Kyle Jones, Alisa Keys, Melisa Leggett, Tara McBeth, Caroline McQueen, Melinda Pritchett, Misty Pritchett, Sherry Pritchett, Rhonda Ross, and Kevin Strebeck.

Fellowship, Ripley, to celebrate 150th year

Fellowship Church, Ripley, will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Aug. 25 at 10 a.m. A covered dish meal will be served in fellowship hall at noon. Guest speakers will be former pastors. Mrs. Marvin Bond will also be on program. Singing will be in the afternoon with former pastors speaking. Ed Lowrey is pastor.

First, Byhalia celebrates 125 years

First Church, Byhalia, will celebrate its 125th anniversary Aug. 25. The anniversary revival will begin with the morning worship service and will continue through Friday with services at 7:30 each evening. Don Stanfill, director of missions, will be the evangelist.

The theme of the celebration will be "Remembering." Lunch will be served at noon on Sunday. The afternoon program will consist of music by guest groups and the recognition of former pastors and former members.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Bethlehem, Benton (Yazoo): July 29-Aug. 2; John Schoolar, pastor and director of VBS; attendance, 35; eight professions of faith.

Hernando, Hernando: total enrollment, 315; 21 professions of faith; offering from each class was weighed with 526 pounds collected, total of \$860.17; 3rd grade collected the most and received a special treat.

County Line, Mendenhall: Aug. 25-28; services, 7 p.m. each night; Gary Bowlin, evangelist; Ray Gates and Debbie Cole, music; Del Gann, pastor.

Providence, Cleveland (Bolivar): Aug. 26-30; Frank Gunn, First, Biloxi, evangelist; Allen Woodhouse, Calvary, Cleveland; services, 7 nightly; Eugene Walden, pastor.

Dorsey, Mantachie: Aug. 25-29; 7 p.m. nightly; Jim Varnon, evangelist; Steve Parrish, music; Jerry Estes, pastor.

Corinth, Purvis: starting Sunday morning, Aug. 25; 7 p.m. nightly; D. J. Benson, Salem Heights, Laurel, evangelist; Eric, son of D. J. Benson, music; Johnny H. Breazeale, pastor.

Revival dates

Lexie Church (Walthall): Aug. 23-25; 7 p.m., Fri. and Sat.; 11 a.m., Sunday; dinner on the grounds, noon; New Continentals in concert Sunday, 7 p.m.; Don Wilton, preaching professor at New Orleans Seminary, evangelist; Jeff Lawrence, Bogalusa, music; David W. Bailey, pastor.

Morgan City (Leflore): Aug. 25-29; Joe May, interim at Calvary Church, Greenwood, evangelist; Mrs. Oline Thompson and Joe Coker, Morgan City, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Bobby Moore, pastor.

Fellowship Church, Bellefontaine (Webster): Aug. 25-28; Marty Comer, Pleasant Grove Church, Vardaman, evangelist; Todd Davis, Columbus, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon-Wed., 7 p.m.; Allen Simpson, pastor.



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PARKS

From page 3

1965, 1975, and 1985.

— At least 10,000 college students to begin cultural and language studies no later than 1995 as preparation for spending 1999 in evangelism around the world.

— At least 5,000 retired Baptist laypersons and church staff members to spend 1999 in world evangelism.

— Assistance to seminaries, universities, and state conventions in preparing these volunteers for cross-cultural communication.

— Massive evangelistic training during 1997-98 to prepare for an end-of-the-decade witnessing thrust.

— Local associations to pray for at least one additional couple to enter missions service and to provide some funding for support.

— A determination of which countries, beyond those to which missionaries are already assigned, should have a Southern Baptist

witness in the 21st century.

— Cooperation with other evangelical Christians to target every major people group with the gospel by A.D. 2000.

— Every Southern Baptist church to pray regularly for missionaries and world evangelization.

Most trustees appeared enthusiastic about renewed missions emphases but were surprised by Parks' reference to his tenure and reluctant to say much about it.

Paige Patterson, a Dallas educator, said: "I want to think about (Parks' tenure) a little bit. My personal opinion doesn't really matter much. What does matter is that we all discern the will of God."

Trustees took time out from the free-wheeling but non-controversial discussions to appoint and reappoint 42 mission workers, bringing the total Southern Baptist foreign mission force to 3,899 people in 121 countries.

Dilday writes for Virginia RELIGIOUS HERALD.

Staff changes

Beacon Street Church, Philadelphia, has called William Thomas Cheeks as pastor, effective July 21. A



Cheeks

Ridgeland.

Sam Morgan



Morgan

Robert C. "Bob" Rogers has accepted the call as pastor of First Church, Poplarville. He has been



Rogers

serving as pastor at Calvary Church, Gloster, since April 1987. Rogers was born in New Orleans, La., but has lived in Mississippi for a number of years. Following his graduation from Mississippi College, with a BA degree he earned a

master of divinity degree and a doctor of theology degree, both from New Orleans Seminary. A reception will be held in the Family Life Center, Sunday, Aug. 25, at 8 p.m.

Bill Salley has resigned as minister

of music and youth, Williamsville Church, Kosciusko. He is available for a position in music and/or youth; also for interim or supply. He may be contacted at Route 4, Box 434, Kosciusko, MS 39090 or phone 289-3378.

Pelahatchie Church, Rankin

Association, has called Lee Hinson as minister of music and youth, effective Aug. 4. A native of San Antonio, Texas, he received his education at Baylor University, East Texas State University, and Southwestern Seminary, and is currently enrolled in the DMA program at New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was New Palestine Church, Picayune.

Philip W. Weatherwax has accepted the call as pastor of First Church, Grenada, effective Aug. 25. He goes to



Weatherwax

Grenada from Bellevue Church, Memphis, Tenn., where he was serving as minister of administration. He has also served as minister in counseling and his wife Janie has a special ministry to the terminally ill and their families. He is a graduate of Memphis State University. First Church will be honoring their new pastor and family with a reception on Aug. 25 from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Sandersville Church, Jones County, has called Donnie V. Parker as pastor, effective Aug. 18. A native of Hattiesburg, Parker is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. He moves to Sandersville Church from East Brewton, Ala.

Dorsey, Mantachie: Aug. 25; Sun-

day School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; potluck lunch following morning service; Jerry Estes, pastor.

Oakland Church, Oakland: Aug. 25;

Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; covered dish; singing; and preaching by James Edwards, interim pastor.

Holly Grove, Braxton: Aug. 25; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; singing, 11 a.m.; covered dish luncheon in fellowship hall at noon; singing and fellowship, 1:30 p.m.; Roger Lee, pastor.

Short Creek (Yazoo): Aug. 25; 10:45 a.m.; Jerry File, Jackson, guest speaker; covered dish in fellowship hall, noon; R. B. McNeer, pastor.

Homecomings

Names in the news



Candystripers at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center include front row, from left, Katy Daigle, Kristi Patrick, Lydia Alba, Amanda Gibbons, Angie Foreman, Patricia Heredia, and Karen Martin. Second row are Melanie Moganti, Shannon Wray, Samecia Minter, Stephanie la Roza, Bonnie Odom, and Michelle Sumrall. Back row are

Angelia Hayman, Suzanne Johnson, Kimberly Lichte, Emily Scott, Heather Nichols, Candy Whitehead, Wendy Carter, Rachelle Johnson, Kalanya Miller, and Jeanie Coleman. The Candystripers gain insight into the healthcare field by assisting many departments throughout the hospital during the summer.

Paul Cotten, director of music therapy, William Carey College, was recently honored at the American Association on Mental Retardation national meeting held in Washington D.C. He received the 1991 Service Award. Cotten made two presentations at the meeting. He was also elected president of the general division of the AAMR and vice chairperson of the Southeastern Region of AAMR.

Basketball coach joins Clarke staff

Jerry Salley, Minden, La., will join Clarke College staff as basketball coach at the 1991-92 school term.



Salley

Salley received the B.S. degree from Nicholls State University and M.S. degree from Northeast Louisiana State. His experience includes nine years as a high school principal, 14 years as an athletic director and basketball and track coach. His teams were state champions in track twice and in basketball four years. He has been selected as State Coach of the Year four times and District Coach of the Year 11 times.

Redford, HMB pioneer, missions leader, dies

CISCO, Texas (BP) — F. Jack Redford, retired director of church extension for the Home Mission Board, died Aug. 9 after an extended illness.

Redford, 69, had been in ill health for several years and had undergone bypass surgery several years ago.

Before retirement, he had worked for 19 years on the staff of the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, joining the HMB staff in 1967 as associate secretary of the department of pioneer missions. He became director of the department of church extension in 1971, and later was promoted to director of the HMB division of church extension.

Revival results

Blackwell (Kemper): July 28-Aug. 2; Philip Cooper, Corinth, evangelist; Bob Egbert, DeKalb, music; seven professions of faith; two by letter; Clayton Littlejohn, pastor.

Tony Hines was ordained to the ministry, Aug. 31, at Colonial Hills Church, Southaven. Hines is pastor of Mt. Olive Church, Okolona. Steve Bennett is pastor of Colonial Hills Church.

Henry J. Bennett, pastor of Terry Road Church, Jackson, on Aug. 25 will be honored for his 42 years as pastor in Hinds County. Jack Nazary, former pastor of West Jackson Church, will be the featured speaker. The "Bible Blitz" will be emphasized in the morning service. Bill Rice, former music director of Byram Church, will lead the music. Dinner will be served at the noon hour.

Keith and Maureen Allen of Greenville have been serving as Mission Service Corps coordinators for area 3. They have moved to Amory where they will be MSC area associates. Mr. and Mrs. Murry Alexander, 3 South Plantation, Greenville, MS 38701, have been enlisted to serve as MSC coordinators for area 3. Their phone is 378-3878. The Alexanders will be available to present Volunteers in Missions in the associational meetings, churches, and church organizations.

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Divine judgments are inevitable

By Randy W. Turner
I Kings 13:1-14:20

God is loving and God is just. To turn your back on God is to turn your face to his judgment. The audacity of Jeroboam must not go



Turner

unreproved or unpunished. He had assumed priestly functions and stood by the altar to offer sacrifice. He had introduced dangerous innovations that involved the whole nation in the guilt of idolatry. His conduct is to be denounced at the very altar where his offense culminated in its highest aggravation. It required more than ordinary bravery to confront so strong-willed and reckless a king who seemed impatient of contradiction and was accustomed to being obeyed. But Jehovah had already provided an agent and qualified him for the work (I Kings 13:4-6). The king's hand was withered and the altar rent asunder. He had stirred up rebellion to seize a crown and to lay his hand menacingly on God's servant. How

BIBLE BOOK

unexpected was the result.

Before God strikes, he warns. It is not his will that any should perish but rather that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). It does not appear that either Jeroboam or his followers were moved to repentance by all they witnessed. This is another example of the hardening nature of sin and the powerlessness of external miracles to affect and transform men's spiritual nature. How many beheld the miracle-working power of Christ and yet died in unbelief.

Calamities are now fast closing around, accumulating upon the head of the impenitent Jeroboam. The power he has defied and provoked must make itself felt and the righteousness of the divine mercy so long and so often despised must be vindicated. The crisis of his fate is approaching, yet another and last effort is made to save him. As the coming tempest gives signals of its advance and

reaches the climax of its fury by graduated stages, so the judgments of heaven do not overtake the wicked without warning and ample opportunity for repentance.

I. Divine Judgments Are Not Sent Without Due Warning. "At that time" (I Kings 14:1), is a phrase meant to connect the narrative which follows with Jeroboam, persistent in his evil courses. The withered hand, the altar that was split apart, the solemn message of the mysterious prophet of Judah and his melancholy fate were all warnings to the impenitent king. To all these yet another is added. The event here related is the first judgment upon Jeroboam for his sin . . . the beginning of the cutting off of his house from the face of the earth.

God never wearies in efforts to save the sinner. His voice is ever calling him to repentance. In verses 2 and 3 the warning appeals to the tenderest human feelings. In this instance it appeals to the instinct of parental love, a love awakened and intensified by the immediate danger of a sick and dying child.

II. Divine Judgments Are Explicitly Declared. The reasons for divine judgments are given in verses 7-9. Jeroboam had been exalted

with honor, power, and greatness even to the detriment and humbling of the favorite tribe of Judah and he had treated the gracious intentions of Jehovah with colossal ingratitude and unexampled impiety. The nature of the divine judgments is stated. It is personal as is revealed in verses 10-14. Jeroboam and his house shall be cut off. It is also national (verses 15 and 16). Already in earlier times had a rooting up and scattering of the people been threatened in cases of disobedience. Here is the first positive announcement of the Assyrian and Babylonian exiles as a punishment of Israel's sins. The people that share in a monarch's sin will inevitably share in its punishment.

III. Divine Judgments Are Inevitable (I Kings 17-20). Already the judgment had begun in the death of his innocent and pious son. Jeroboam soon followed, struck down by a dire disease which dragged him down to a miserable death (II Chronicles 13:20). Destruction often overtakes sinners in the midst of their careers. Death pays no more respect to palaces than to the clay hut. No power in earth or hell can avert the righteous punishment of wrong doing.

Turner is pastor, Parkway Church, Natchez.

From celebration to consecration

By Kiely D. Young
Nehemiah 12:27-13:31

Revival and reformation go hand in hand. If there is genuine transformation of hearts, there will be inevitable change in lifestyle. This can



Young

breed excited change in churches and communities. Nehemiah led the Israelites in Jerusalem to tremendous victory in the rebuilding of the wall around the city, but the task was not complete. There were changes to be made in the community necessary to preserve the revival which had begun. But in the midst of this, Nehemiah wanted to be sure God received the glory for the victory accomplished.

Dedication of the wall (12:27-43). "Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites . . . that they might celebrate the dedication with gladness . . ." (v. 27). These folks had reason to celebrate, and celebrate they did. They first purified themselves, the people, and the wall. Then they formed two great choirs, one led by Ezra on the right wall, the other by Nehemiah on the left. "And on that day they offered great sacrifices and rejoiced because God had given them great joy . . . so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard from afar" (v. 43).

UNIFORM

What a tremendous testimony of victory. What a statement of influence. Oh that it could be said of Christians today, "Their joy could be heard from afar." We hear so much of division and confusion when the testimony should be of the Good News and celebration.

A declaration in the temple (13:1-3). "On that day they read aloud from the book of Moses in the hearing of the people; and there was found written in it that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God" (13:1). This reference to Deuteronomy 23:3 results from the fact that Tobiah had worked his way into the temple and filled it with his furniture and his false worship. Nehemiah was reclaiming the house of worship for the people of God. He did so on the authority of God's Word. "I came to Jerusalem and learned about the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, by preparing a room for him in the courts of the house of God. And it was very displeasing to me, so I threw all of Tobiah's household goods out of the room" (vv. 7,8).

Nehemiah performed a spiritual housecleaning, necessary for reform to last. The same is true for Christians. We are admonished in Hebrews 12 to "lay aside every encumbrance, and the sins which so easily entangle us." Far

too often we compromise our spiritual growth by hanging onto the past. Nehemiah had no toleration for any presence of evil. Neither should we. We must depose sin while exhibiting compassion for the sinner.

A demonstration through the tithe (13:10-14). "I discovered that the portions of the Levites had not been given them . . . So I reprimanded the officials and said, 'Why has the house of God been forsaken?' " (vv. 10,11). The singers and the Levites that normally received their living from the tithes of the people giving to the temple had been forced to go outside the temple securing other jobs to meet expenses. Nehemiah told the temple leaders this was wrong. He then "gathered them (Levites and singers) together and restored them to their posts. Next he instructed all Judah to bring their tithes into the storehouse" (v.11).

The storehouse is God's church. We are to practice obedience in giving. We are realistically robbing God (Malachi 3) if we are not practicing stewardship by giving at least a tithe of all we receive, because all of our resources come from God in the first place. He proves to us he will make the 90% go much further if we will honor him with at least 10%.

Devotion of the Sabbath (13:15-19). "In those days I saw in Judah some who were treading wine presses on the Sabbath, . . . So I admonished them on the day they sold food" (v. 15). The fifth commandment, "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy" (Exodus 20:9)

was clearly being broken. Again Nehemiah saw that action must be taken to keep reform in place. He "commanded the doors be shut and that they should not open until after the Sabbath. Then I stationed some of my servants at the gates that no load should enter on the Sabbath" (v. 19). He clearly meant for business to cease on the Sabbath. The Sabbath was to be a day of rest and worship.

Our society has wandered far astray from honoring the Lord's day of worship and rest. Christians are not only forced to work, but far too many are choosing also to shop on Sunday. Not only are they not honoring the Lord's day themselves, but they are keeping others from their day of rest and worship. I am reminded of the lad's response to his teacher for not having his homework on Monday morning. He said, "Saturday is mine and Sunday is the Lord's and that did not leave any room for homework." We should not take false advantage of worship and rest for selfish interest, but we should keep Christ first every day.

Nehemiah closes his book with a prayer, "Remember them, O my God . . . they defiled the priesthood . . . and the Levites . . . thus I purified them . . . I appointed duties . . . I arranged supply . . . for the first fruits. Remember me, O my God, for good." He began the book with concern for a distressed city; he closed with a prayer for a consecrated city. May we leave such a legacy.

Young is pastor of First Church, Greenville.

Elisha helps the hostile by showing mercy

By Don Dobson
2 Kings 6:11-12, 15-18, 21-22

"Mercy drops round us as falling but for the showers we plead."

The above line from the well known hymn,



Dobson

"There Shall Be Showers of Blessing," by Daniel Whittle, has much to say to all of us. We have only to look around and discover how God has been so merciful to us. Certainly but for the grace of God through the atoning death of Christ, we would be most miserable. Mercy is indeed a valuable commodity to all. We should receive it graciously and give it openly.

The focal passages of today's lesson helps us to assist those who appear hostile to experience God's power and mercy. Elisha held the very

LIFE AND WORK

lives of the Syrians (Arameans) in his hands. He opted for mercy. In this lesson we notice:

I. Non-believers can be hostile towards God's own (vv. 11, 12).

The king of Aram, or Syria, was waging war on Israel. He was not experiencing much success. It seems that Elisha was able to warn the king of Israel of the Aramean army's movements. This infuriated their king. He immediately ordered the capture of Elisha. His hostility burned white-hot towards the prophet.

Many times, God's servants will face hostility and opposition from those that know not Christ. It very well could be that the hostility is encouraged by misunderstandings, misconceptions, or by just everyday meanness on the part of the unbeliever. Whatever the case,

God's servants must expect some hostility from the world.

II. Hostile actions can bring on helpless feelings (v. 15).

The king of Aram had the city of Dothan surrounded. He had previously discovered that Elisha was there. The servant of the prophet, perhaps Gehazi, was literally terrified. He expressed a complete sense of helplessness.

There are times in the lives of believers when we feel beyond help and hope. When people have expressed exaggerated hostility directed to us, we often feel a sense of panic and fear. Like the servant of Elisha, we may feel surrounded and cut off from any help at all.

III. In the midst of hostility and helplessness, God speaks (v. 16).

The prophet told his servant not to be afraid. Elisha was the accepted spokesman of God. His word was tantamount to the word of God.

Even in the depths of our fear, we can hear the voice of Christ saying, "Fear not, it is I."

We can hear Paul telling Timothy that God has not given him "a spirit of fear." God does speak and God does protect during the dark hours of our lives.

IV. God not only helps us, he also wants us to help others (vv. 21-22).

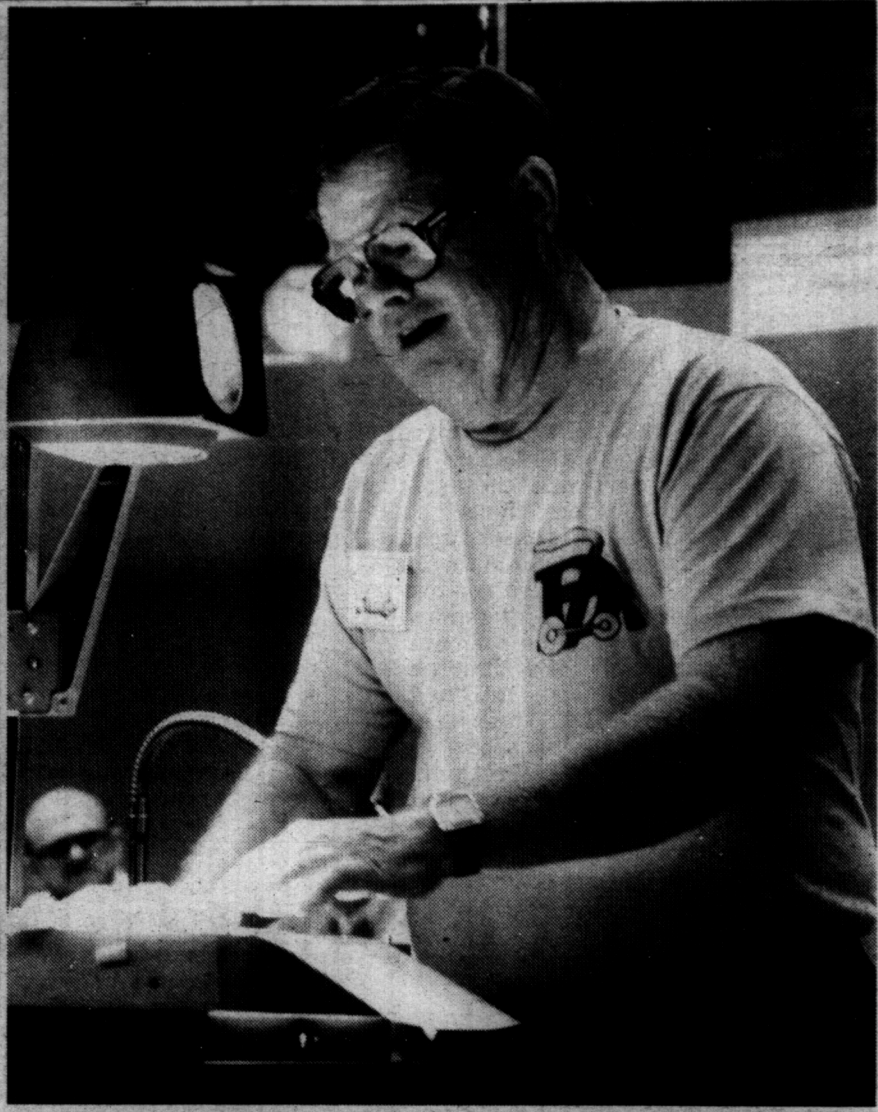
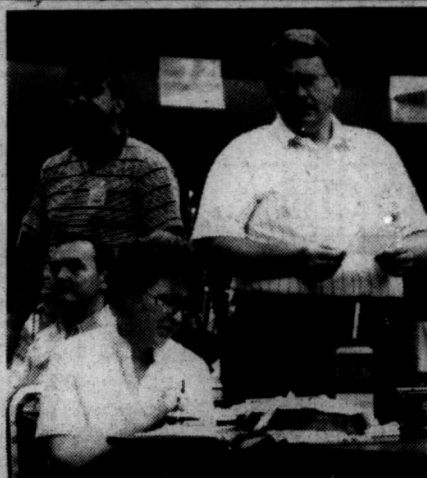
Following the prayer of help from Elisha, God blinded the Arameans. It would have been rather easy to have slaughtered the enemy army. Instead, Elisha led them to Samaria. Here he once again had opportunity to do the hostiles great harm. He chose mercy. He had them fed and returned to their own homes.

When the world closes in on us and treats us wrongly, we have several options. We can strike back. We can run. We can surrender. We can, as the situation merits, show mercy. The word of God has a bit to say about mercy and forgiveness. One example that is worthy is our serious consideration in "forgive us this day as we forgive others."

Dobson is pastor of Collins Church, Collins.

MASTERLIFE WORKSHOP

Mississippi Baptists recently participated in MasterLife training sessions at the Illinois Baptist Building in Springfield. The Illinois Baptists received certification as MasterLife coordinators. At right, **Ken McMillen**, formerly of Byhalia, leads the MasterLife workshop. McMillen is now a director of missions in Tennessee. Shown at bottom are some of the 25-plus Illinois Baptists who received training, in session with **Larry Goff**, student director, Jones County Community College, and McMillen. Top, Marvin Howard and John Reed participate in a MasterLife training session.



Revival above the Arctic circle

By Lola M. Autry

KOTZEBUE, Alaska — above the Arctic Circle. Temperature: 25 below zero. A short landing strip for the 727 Jet. Snow banked ahead; behind; to the left; to the right. Icy patches on the tarmac where we stepped from the plane's landing stairs. What possible explanation could there be for three Mississippians to be in such a place? The answer is simple. We had volunteered to be there, and we were excited as well as apprehensive.

Steve Jordan, Bill Barrett, and I were part of the Witness, Giving Life Revivals team that would preach and have music ministry in Alaska, April 7-14. Wayne Gullett, director of missions, Calhoun County Association, was coordinator. Other Mississippians involved were John Stewart, Clayton Littlejohn, Daniel Haththorne, Leslie Hicks, Melvin Davis, Anthony Mitchell, and Ira Alley whose wife, Memory, also went. They were all assigned to churches south of the Arctic Circle. Steve and I were sent to First Baptist Church, Kotzebue.

The blue and white building housed not only the church facilities, but was home to the pastor, Sid Martin and his wife, Marsha.

The congregation at First Baptist Church, Kotzebue, is made up of Eskimos who speak English but love to sing in their native language, English-speaking people, and Koreans who also enjoy singing in their own language. Several times I asked all who were present at a service to sing, at the same time, in their natural tongue. The tune was the same, the meaning of the words the same, the joy of worship through song the same. Only the softly sung words differed and made a sweet combination of sounds.

We had no revival services on Saturday so Jim Farr, one of the church members, offered to fly Steve and me to Selawic where Bill would be preaching. Before we could leave, Sid, Steve, and Jim had to dig the four seater plane out of the snow.

There are no streets, no

automobiles in Kiana or Selawic. How could there be a landing strip? But there was one. It was a strip of frozen earth, the width of the snow plow blade which had cleared it of the powdery stuff. An Eskimo named Frankie met us on his Sno-Go (the popular name for Snowmobile).

There is no pastor at either of the five missions sponsored by the Kotzebue Church. Harley Shield and his wife Martha, who have lived in the area 26 years, go to the missions as often as they can. He was pastor of the Kotzebue Church for many years and he and Martha were responsible for establishing the churches in five villages within 150 miles of Kotzebue.

At the service at Selawic on that Saturday evening Harley led the singing to my organ accompaniment. Then Emma, an Eskimo, sang in a clear, high voice with the audience following her lead.

These are the bare bones of the experience of revival above the Arctic Circle. There are other things: the non-setting sun greeting us as we came from each service; the smiles of the Eskimos as they welcomed us to their land; the gentleness and kindness of the Koreans as they offered Sid help with the van and in other ways; the leadership of the English-speaking workers; the sharing of vast experience in the work by Harvey and Martha Shield; the wonderful meal she served us in their home; Jim Farr offering to fly us to Kiana and Selawic; B. J. and Dave Schmitz hooking up their dog team and taking Steve and me for a ride on the frozen sea; Lulu Kelly, Esther Norton, and Bessie Cross, three beautiful Inupiak women who became my friends; and the wonderful hospitality of Sid and Marsha Martin who seek only to serve.

There is a word in the Inupiak language which is also found in the Bible — the word "Selah." In Inupiak, it means "the whole universe; see the whole world when you go out." To me, that is a perfect description of what missions is all about, see the needs of

the whole world. There is another word in the same language that bears a similar meaning to its biblical counterpart — the word "Abba." In Inupiak it means "daddy" or "father." That's what it means in the Bible. The Father says, "Go ye into all the world preaching the gospel." The peoples above the Arctic Circle need to know the Great Abba. As Sid Martin said in a video tape made for us to bring back to our churches, "Maybe it is YOU he will call to this land of snow and cold."

Autry lives near Hickory Flat.



Marsha Martin, Steve Jordan, and Lola Autry stand in front of First (and only) Baptist Church, Kotzebue, Alaska.

"Christians are called to care"

By Chip Alford

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — About 90 percent of the hurting people in churches could be helped by fellow church members, a conference leader said.

"As Christians, part of our ministry role, whether we are pastors or church leaders or not, is to be a caregiver to people. We should all be in the soul-care business," said Jim Hightower, pastoral leadership consultant in the Sunday School Board's Church Administration Department. Hightower led a series of seminars titled, "Called to Care: The Basics of Caring for People," during Bible-Predaching-Administration Week Aug.

3-10 at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

"There is no way pastors can do all the pastoral care in a church," Hightower said. "They simply don't have the time. Other members of the church staff, deacons, Sunday School teachers, any concerned Christians, can provide help."

Hightower shared with conference participants three "maxims" in determining whether they should offer help to someone who is hurting:

1) You can't help folks who don't want help. 2) You can't help people if they don't know what they want. 3) Only you know your boundaries — what you can help people with and what you can't.

He also said people with the following problems will require professional help: delusional thinking, severe depression, eating disorders, thought disorders, and addictive behaviors, such as alcoholism or drug addiction.

Alford writes for BSSB.

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